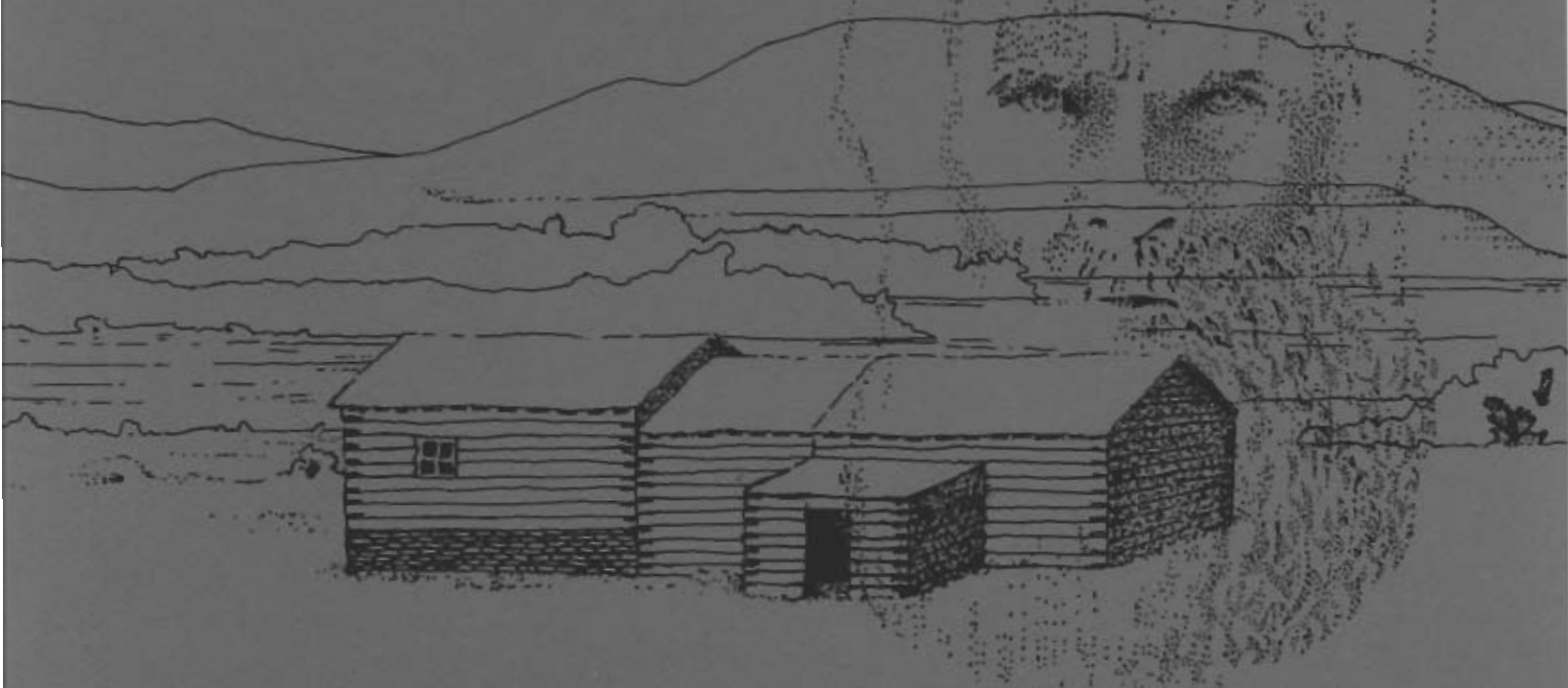


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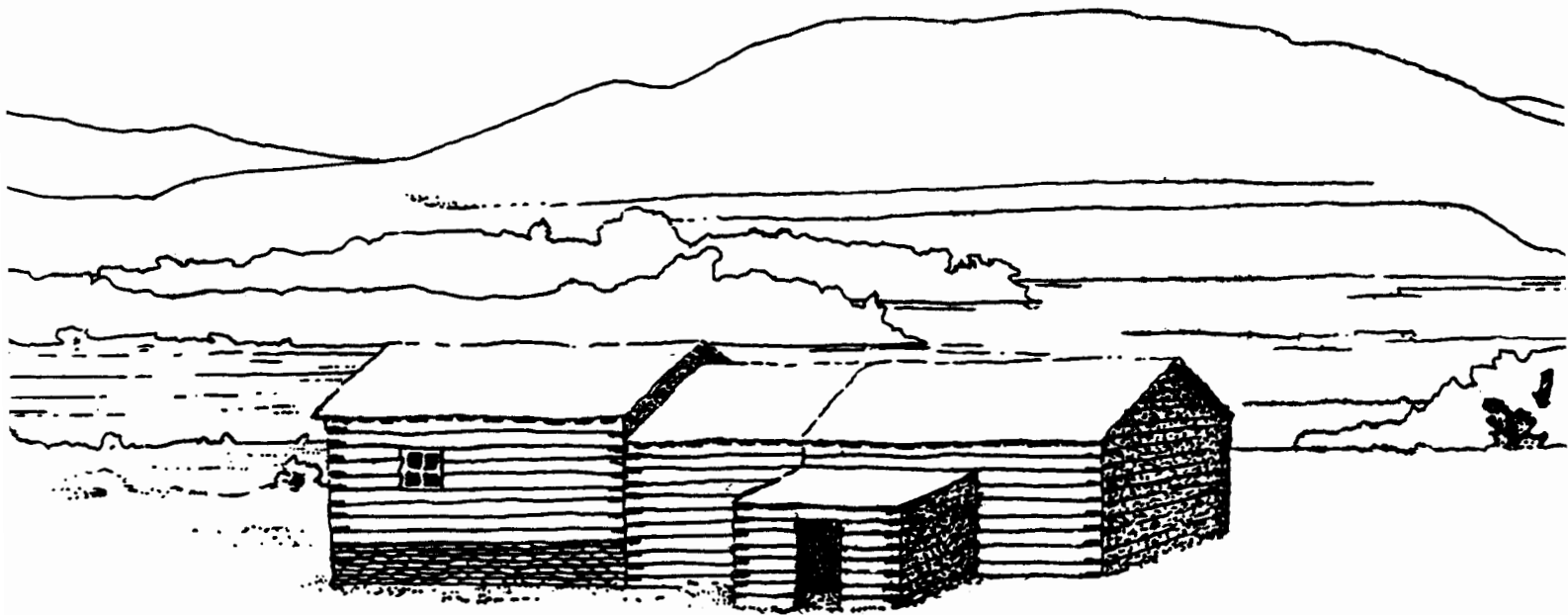
JOHN JARVIE OF BROWN'S PARK

by
William L. Tennent



**CULTURAL RESOURCES SERIES
No 7**

JOHN JARVIE OF BROWN'S PARK



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William L. Tennent

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Foreword

“John Jarvie of Brown’s Park” represents the seventh volume in a series of Cultural Resource Monographs published by the Bureau of Land Management, Utah. I am pleased to introduce this volume in the Utah Cultural Resource Monograph Series and hope readers derive the same degree of enrichment as we did in its preparation.

“John Jarvie of Brown’s Park” was prepared in 1978 by William L. Tennent, while serving on the staff of the Vernal District Bureau of Land Management. During the preparation of this report, the Vernal District managed the historic Jarvie property under a lease from the Nature Conservancy. Subsequent to the completion of this volume, BLM purchased the property, and completed excavation of the house and store.

The store is currently being reconstructed for use as a museum and the home of John Jarvie will be used as field quarters for BLM employees.

This historic biography and our recent work at the site is representative of the continuing effort to protect and maintain the historical importance of this site by the Bureau of Land Management.

Lloyd H. Ferguson
Vernal District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
September 1984

Editor's Note

Prepared in 1980, by William L. Tennent, this monograph presents a biography of John Jarvie (1844-1909), a history of Brown's Park (the area in which he lived) and an inventory of the Jarvie Historic Site. Since the original publication of this document (1981), the Bureau of Land Management, has accomplished additional work at the Jarvie complex including excavation of the store and John Jarvie's home. This work, completed in 1983 after two field seasons, was directed by Pamela Smith, a BLM seasonal archaeologist. Ms. Smith working with volunteers of the Student Conservation Association, found only minor discrepancies in the oral accounts previously obtained by Tennent. For example, the structural foundations, illustrated on Page 111, can now be compared to the cover sketch of this edition, which has been retouched to reflect the recent archaeological data. The excavation report is on file with BLM.

Additional work will continue on this site. Both buildings are currently being reconstructed using the data acquired by Tennent and Smith. The John Jarvie historic site is being developed as an interpretive facility to be enjoyed by you and future visitors, as well as to enhance our knowledge base concerning the lives and activities of early Utah settlers.

Richard E. Fike
September 1984

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RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Until this writing, no biography of John Jarvie had ever been attempted. His life has been reconstructed using two major sources: public records and interviews with people who knew him. Facts were gathered from courthouse records in the counties of Uintah and Daggett in Utah, Routt and Moffat in Colorado, and Sweetwater in Wyoming. Minnie Crouse Rasmussen of Prescott, Arizona, who knew Jarvie when she was a young lady, provided a wealth of information as did Jess Taylor of Rock Springs, Wyoming, who worked for Jarvie as a boy. Federal Government documents, newspapers, and contemporary manuscripts also provided much information which was previously unconsolidated and, in large part, forgotten.

Several books have been written about the Brown's Park area in general and about the outlaw era in particular. Being informal in nature, none have been seriously documented. Much of what has been written is highly romanticized and deals with the heroic, dramatic, and eccentric usually relying on local folklore for the facts. To a large degree, this work will be no different since often the heroic, dramatic, and eccentric are the only elements which survive the passage of time and folklore can provide valuable historical insight. An attempt has been made, however, to document the facts using primary sources wherever available. Public records, journals, oral histories, written histories, and unpublished manuscripts are the major sources of information. New findings have disproved some points while substantiating others. Endnotes provide the reader with the opportunity to further research the subject if desired and to evaluate the source.

Much of Brown's Park history has been handed down orally for several generations and in many cases conflicting opinions exist. Even members of the same family often disagree on particular interpretations of events. Often there are no right or wrong answers and there are as many versions of a story as there are storytellers. Where conflicts occur, endnotes are used to explain the issue and the various sources of information are given enabling the reader to decide which version he prefers or which source he trusts the most.

William L. Tennent

INTRODUCTION

"The history of the world," wrote Thomas Carlyle, "is but the biography of great men." Greatness, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder and simply because the lives of the famous are thoroughly recorded, it does not necessarily follow that they are historically more important than the multitudes of the unsung. Monarchs and presidents have been enthroned, dethroned, elected, and rejected, not by the great figures of their day, but by the combined efforts of average citizens. Leaders must have a following; philosophers must have an audience. "The decisive factor in a nation's history," claimed the philosopher Ortega, "is the common man." George Sheehan was blunter: "Our herd's future, the future of the race, has always depended on its innumerable mediocre men." History, if it is to be relevant, must, therefore, reflect not only the lives of the great but also the lives of the common and mediocre (Webster defines mediocre as being ordinary, average, between extremes).

An informal survey of an audience attending an evening campfire program in the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area during the summer of 1979 indicated that none of the over 100 people were descendents of monarchs or presidents. Nearly all were descendents of farmers, ranchers, merchants, miners, and public servants. The biography of John Jarvie and the restoration of his property, therefore, carry great potential for helping people to understand their heritage. Jarvie was a leader in his community and an important pioneer on a local level, but his fame was not national in scope. His story provides a picture of life as it existed for the common man in a frontier society; a picture that modern men can easily relate to. The Jarvie story reveals much about the nature of life in Brown's Park, and the Brown's Park story reveals

much about society on the frontier.

The frontier, according to Frederick Jackson Turner, was the primary factor working to create unique institutions in America and unique characteristics in Americans. As pioneers entered new areas, they brought with them the politics, law, language, and culture of Europe and the East. Their culture was forced to adapt to the new environment of the frontier first by reverting to a primitive life style and eventually by discarding some ill-suited institutions and assimilating others regarded as vital. This process of rebirth on the edge of civilization gradually resulted in the Americanization of people and customs. Turner wrote: "The existence of an area of free land, its continuous recession, and the advance of American settlement westward, explain American development."

The Brown's Park society, due to its limited population and its isolated nature, provides an excellent laboratory for examining the Turner "frontier hypothesis." The mountain men, cattlemen, settlers, and outlaws all moved through Brown's Park in distinct waves reverting at first to primitive individualism and finally forming a distinct culture and cultural institutions. Mountain man rendezvous, cattlemen's associations, and vigilante groups developed as answers to needs which could not be met by unconcerted individual efforts. Attitudes and actions were forged by the environment, Turner fashion, in Brown's Park. The characters who populated the valley became distinctly American.

The characters of Brown's Park, including John Jarvie, have taken on almost legendary natures over the years. However, they have not all become Owen

Wister stereotypes and did not always follow the cowboy code of his Virginian. They were not all white. They were not all honorable. They were not all self reliant. They were often philosophical as well as physical. In short, they were a cross section of common citizens living day to day lives in the best way they knew how. They were Ortega's "decisive factor" and Sheehan's "mediocre men." For that reason alone, the stories of John Jarvie and Brown's Park are relevant and worth relating.

CHAPTER I

BROWN'S HOLE 1825-1871: EXPLORERS, TRADERS, AND MOUNTAIN MEN

"American states and territories from which they grow are created by acts of statesmen," however, "In the beginning, it is a matter of geography and nature--nothing more."¹ Although the above statement is applied to the state of Utah and to the process by which it was created, it can readily be applied to the small portion of that state where John Jarvie lived--Brown's Park. The Jarvie story and the Brown's Park story are interconnected parts of the same whole. Both stories must be told in order to gain the proper historic perspective.

Brown's Park, originally called Brown's Hole, is a valley some forty miles in length along the Green River bounded on the south by Diamond Mountain of the Uintah Range and on the north by Cold Spring Mountain. Brown's Park lies roughly half in Utah and half in Colorado with some of the northern extremities reaching into Wyoming.

Geography and nature endowed Brown's Hole with certain characteristics that in large measure dictated man's response to the area. Nature provided mild winters which would attract red men at first and provided ideal shelter for white men and their cattle herds as time progressed.

Geographically, the surrounding mountains kept out certain elements while attracting others. A centralized position in the middle of a rich fur bearing area made the Hole a natural rendezvous site for early mountain men and the

proximity to great overland trails tied Brown's Hole to the wider world beyond via both northern and southern routes. The Oregon Trail to the north tied Brown's Hole to the northern Rockies while the Old Spanish Trail to the south tied it to Santa Fe and the Southwest. When lines were drawn and the Hole was divided among three states, it became a natural harbor for men who wished to avoid capture by merely crossing one of those lines.

Most of the earth's great cities developed because of locations along coasts or rivers where they became ports or developed harbors and became important keys in the transportation and trade networks. Brown's Hole functioned as a safe harbor also, although the men it sheltered did not create an urban society. They sought out her harbor, created by nature and geography, for specific purposes and when those purposes had been fulfilled, they moved on leaving the Hole a relatively isolated and unspoiled region to this day.

While geography and nature provided the setting, the explorers, traders, and mountain men of Brown's Hole brought the area into the mainstream of American development. They exposed it to the forces that were shaping the country and made it an integral part of it. They discovered its secrets through exploration and, with the mountain men, peopled it with characters who made it uniquely American.

Thus, during the years that Manifest Destiny grew into an American ideology, the men who explored, traded, and trapped in Brown's Hole and, indeed, the entire West provided substance upon which supporters of the ideology could act. By the right of customary usage, Brown's Hole became part of the myth and reality of America's westward expansion. In this remote and isolated area, we

can see many episodes from the pageant of the settling of the American West. Indians, fur traders, cattlemen, explorers, settlers, and outlaws all figure in the history of Brown's Hole.

From its earliest history, Brown's Hole has been a place of controversy. Even the origin of its name is shrouded in mystery and contention. The list of possible namesakes seems as endless as the debate it arouses. A traveller in 1839 said, "The place was called 'Brown's Hole' from the fact that a number of years before a white man named Brown had been murdered by the Indians there."² Rufus B. Sage, who camped in Brown's Hole in 1842 while searching for a fabled tribe of white Indians known as the Munchies, said it was named after a trapper by the name of Brown who came to the Hole to hunt in the fall. "During his stay, a fall of snow closed the passes so effectually, he was forced to remain till the succeeding spring before he could escape from his lonely prison."³

Major John Wesley Powell, in 1869, said Brown's Hole was named "in honor of an old time trapper, who once had a cabin there, and caught beaver and killed deer."⁴ Ann Bassett, the first white child born in Brown's Hole, believed that it was named after a French trapper called "Bible-back Brown" who had strongly recommended the sheltered place as being a good place to "hole up" for the winter. From this the name Brown's Hole became fixed, she claimed.⁵ Other possible Brown's include Henry "Bo'sun" Brown, one of Ashley's men, Charles Brown who trapped the Green with Henry Nidever in 1831, and the colorfully nicknamed "Old Cut Rocks" Brown.

Others believe that a French Canadian trapper by the name of Baptiste Brown is

the rightful claimant. One writer claims that "Two years after Ashley's visit..Baptiste Brown, wandered into the Hole," and "did something a voyageur rarely did; that is he decided to settle down. Choosing a site not far from the confluence of Vermillion Creek and the Green River, he built a cabin for himself and his Blackfoot squaw."⁶ Another account says that Baptiste Brown was one of Henry Fraeb's men and had participated in the last pitched battle between Indians and trappers on the Little Snake River, just east of Brown's Hole. Fraeb and three of his men were killed along with forty or fifty Indians.⁷ University of Wyoming history professor Dick Dunham supports the Baptiste Brown theory saying, "There are no records to prove it; but tradition, passed on from mountain men to early settlers, is so strongly established there seems no reason for doubting it. So to Baptiste Brown we give the credit for being the first white man to settle in...the whole intermountain West..."⁸ Some historians, however, doubt the very existence of Baptiste Brown. Janet Lecompte of Colorado Springs argues convincingly that Brown was a fictional character invented by Colonel Henry Inman in his book The Old Santa Fe Trail originally published in 1897.⁹

Still others feel that Baptiste Brown was actually an alias for Jean-Baptiste Chalifoux. Chalifoux was a French Canadian trapper who operated out of Taos. He led a horse stealing party to California in 1837, operated a trading post in Embudo, New Mexico, in the 1840s, and built the first house in Trinidad, Colorado, in 1869. He visited the Brown's Hole area in 1835 and left his name carved on a cliffside in the Willow Creek drainage. In 1847 he served on the jury trying the murderer of Charles Bent in Taos. It seems unlikely, however, that such a visible personality could have spent so many years living a double life under an alias in Brown's Hole.¹⁰

J. S. Hoy, an early Brown's Hole cattleman, had the following comments about Baptiste Brown:

As Baptiste Brown of Brown's Hole fame never existed, he will be hard to kill and bury him so deep in the earth or oblivion but that someone will attempt to disinter him, rehabilitate his ghostly skeleton with flesh, blood and life, and expose him to new adventure and dangers, for Baptiste Brown's ghost like all spirits and ghosts has neither beginning nor end; while at the same time affording material for endless discussions.¹¹

Hoy proposes that the Hole was named because of its physical appearance. He writes:

When we emerged from Red Creek Canyon that November day in 1872; looking east we could see the entire length and both sides of the Hole, two apparently unbroken mountain ranges, covered with a dense growth of low cedars and pinon, the whole representing a dark brown in appearance approaching black. The rocks also where they were visible, were a dark brown, so that we were all impressed with the same thought--the Hole was rightly named brown... All the stories told that it was named after a trapper by the name of Brown are pure fiction.¹²

Unless some new evidence is found, the identity of the elusive Brown will remain a mystery. The earliest recorded visit to Brown's Hole by a white man, however, is not a mystery. In 1825, floating down the Green River, William Henry Ashley first entered Brown's Hole. His boat had been launched above Flaming Gorge and he rode the rapids for six days without food through the perpendicular canyons when "suddenly the mountains drew back, the river widened, and they shot out into beautiful Brown's Hole. Ten miles below was a great campground where thousands of Indians had wintered...."¹³ Within a decade of Ashley's visit, Brown's Hole became an important fur trading center.

Brown's Hole became the scene of fur company activity and between 1826 and 1840, nearly every mountain man or trapper of consequence visited Brown's Hole including Kit Carson, Joe Meek, Uncle Jack Robinson, and Robert Newell.

In 1827, the Ceran St. Vrain party out of Taos wintered in Brown's Hole. Thomas Smith, who had performed a self-amputation on a wounded leg and whittled himself a wooden replacement, was a member of the party. Known as "Pegleg", he went on to become one of the West's best known horse thieves. Christopher Carson made his first recorded visit to Brown's Hole in 1829 when he came north from Taos to trap along the Green with Uncle Jack Robinson. In September of 1831, the Alexander Sinclair party left Taos and trapped the waters of the Arkansas and the Platte. After catching one hundred beavers, they wintered in Brown's Hole. They found elk to be plentiful, but buffalo were scarce. It is probable that they erected some sort of shelter in the Hole. They returned to the North Platte in the spring of 1832.¹⁴

Much of Brown's Hole fur trade centered around Fort Davy Crockett. During its brief history, Fort Davy Crockett "was a social center of the Rocky Mountains"¹⁵ as well as an economic center and a crossroads of the West linking the northern fur frontier with the southern. The exact date of the fort's construction is uncertain. Licenses issued to individuals and trading companies authorizing trade with certain Indian tribes at designated places issued by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs in St. Louis, William Clark, of the Lewis and Clark expedition, indicate the existence of a trading post in Brown's Hole dating back to 1832. If this early post was not the actual Fort Crockett, "it is likely the fort was built sometime in 1836, probably during the summer months when trapping could not be carried on."¹⁶

The three partners in the Fort Davy Crockett venture were William Craig, Philip Thompson, and Prewitt Sinclair, although it is not certain that they were the ones who actually constructed the fort. Descriptions of the fort have been left by travellers who visited there in 1839. The "Peoria Party" under the leadership of Thomas Jefferson Farnham left Peoria, Illinois, on May 1, enroute to Oregon. The party experienced some hardships crossing Colorado and found it necessary to cook and eat a dog. While some of the party felt the dish tasted like mutton, Farnham declared that "it tasted like the flesh of a dog, a singed dog."¹⁷

Approaching the fort, August 12, 1839, hungry and exhausted, Farnham was impressed by the beauty of the area and wrote "the bluffs opened before us the beautiful plain of Brown's Hole...The Fort...peered up in the centre.... The dark mountains rose around it sublimely, and the green fields swept away into the deep precipitous gorges more beautifully than I can describe."¹⁸ Though the fort offered little in the way of sustenance, Farnham recalled it fondly. He sat talking with Sinclair until midnight and then Sinclair gave the guest his own bedroom for the extent of his stay.

Farnham described the fort:

The Fort is a hollow square of one story log cabins, with roofs and floors of mud, constructed in the same manner as those of Fort William. Around these we found the conical skin lodges of the squaws of the white trappers, who were away on their 'fall hunt', and also the lodges of a few Snake Indians, who had preceeded their tribe to this, their winter haunt. Here also were the lodges of Mr. Robinson, a trader,

who usually stations himself here to traffic with the Indians and white trappers. His skin lodge was his warehouse; and buffalo robes were spread upon the ground and counter, on which he displayed his butcher knives, hatchets, powder, lead, fish-hooks, and whisky. In exchange for these articles, he receives beaver skins from trappers, money from travellers, and horses from the Indians. Thus, as one would believe, Mr. Robinson drives a very snug little business. And indeed, when all the 'independent trappers' are driven by approaching winter into this delightful retreat, and the whole Snake village, two or three thousand strong, impelled by the same necessity, pitch their lodges around the Fort, and the dances and merry makings of a long winter are thoroughly commenced, there is no want for customers.¹⁹ (See Figure 1)

Obadiah Oakley, another member of the Peoria Party, records purchasing dogs in Brown's Hole from passing Indians for \$15 each. He found the dog meat "excellent, much better than our domestic beef, and next to buffalo."²⁰

Five days after Farnham's arrival, a group heading east from Fort Hall stopped at the fort. Dr. F. A. Wislizenus, a German from St. Louis was in this party. He was less kind in his description of the fort:

The fort itself is the worst thing of the kind that we have seen on our journey. It is a low one-story building, constructed of wood and clay, with three connecting wings, and no enclosure. Instead of cows, the fort had only some goats. In short, the whole establishment appeared somewhat poverty-stricken, for which reason it is also known to the trappers as Fort Misery (Fort deMisere).²¹

Kit Carson was the hunter for the fort for at least two years. After attending the 1838 rendezvous on the Popo Agie to the north, he recorded "I and seven men went to Brown's Hole....I was now employed as hunter for the fort and I continued in this service during the winter, having to keep twenty men sup-



Photo 1. Uncle Jack Robinson, trader at Fort Davy Crockett. (Photo Credit: Utah State Historical Society).

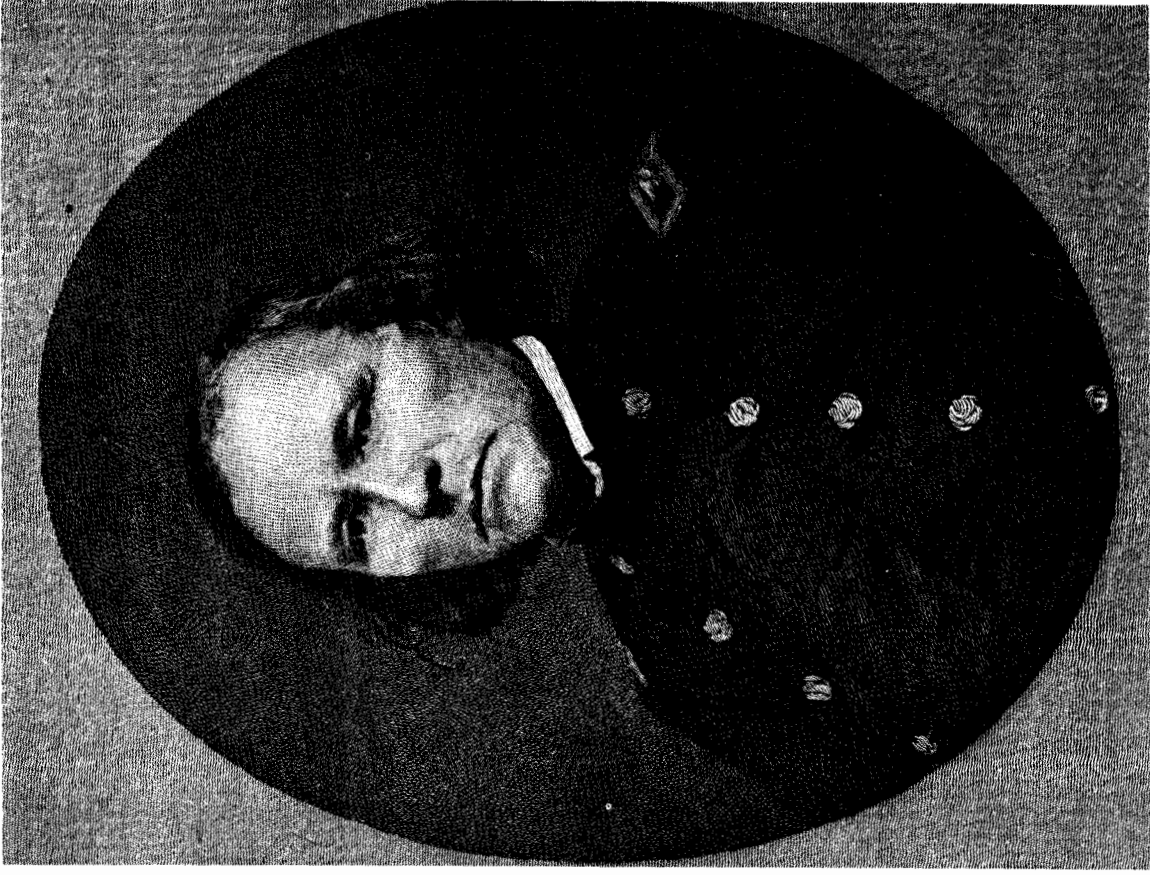


Photo 2. Kit Carson, hunter for Fort Davy Crockett. (Photo Credit: Utah State University Special Collections).

plied with meat."²² Carson returned to the fort again the following winter (1839-1840) after spending the summer in the Black Hills with Dick Owens (See Figure 2).²³

In the fall of 1839, many traders visited the fort. They included Owens and Carson, Able Baker trading for Bent and St. Vrain, and Thomas Biggs trading for Sublette and Vasquez. Biggs reported that rivalry among traders was so fierce that they would not even observe the custom of carrying each other's letters.²⁴

A major incident that might possibly have led to the abandonment of Fort Davy Crockett occurred in the fall of 1839 when a hunting party consisting of seven whites and two squaws led by Carson was attacked by a party of Sioux one morning. The hunters retaliated and after an exchange of fire, the Indian Chief approached in a peace making gesture. When he was within shooting distance, one of the white hunters fired and killed him along with one or two other Indians. On November 1, a small band of Sioux avenging the killing of their peace making Chief, crept into Brown's Hole and ran off about 150 horses from the fort.

Instead of following the guilty Sioux, a band of traders, including fort partner Thompson, attempting to make good the loss, "went to friendly Fort Hall, Hudson's Bay Company post, and stole fourteen horses. On the way back, after enjoying the hospitality of some peaceful Snake Indians, they stole some thirty head from the unsuspecting friendlies."²⁵

The majority of whites at the fort condemned the thievery. The thieves,

therefore, took the horses to an abandoned fort on the Green River at the mouth of the Uintah. When the robbed Snakes arrived at Fort Davy Crockett seeking their horses, a band made up of Joe Meek, William Craig, Robert Newell, Kit Carson, Joe Walker, and twenty-five others set out to find them. They found the horses on an island in the frozen Green River and the robbers in an old fort. Walker attempted to get the horses off of the island and across the river, but the attempt failed when the thieves rushed from the fort.

Walker made a masterly flank movement and getting in Thompson's rear, ran the horses into the fort, where he stationed his men, and succeeded in keeping the robbers on the outside. Thompson then commenced giving the horses away to a village of Utes in the neighborhood of the fort, on the condition that they should assist in retaking them. On his side, Walker threatened the Utes with dire vengeance if they dared interfere. The Utes who had a wholesome fear not only of trappers, but of their foes the Snakes, declined to enter the quarrel. After a day of strategy, and of threats alternated with arguments, strengthened by a warlike display, the trappers marched out of the fort before the faces of the discomfited thieves, taking their booty with them which was duly restored to the Snakes...and peace was secured once more.²⁶

The horse stealing incident may have helped to splinter the partnership of Thompson, Craig, and Sinclair since they chose different sides on the issue; however, the era of the fur trade was coming to an end anyway. The year 1840, which saw the last major fur trade rendezvous of the mountains, apparently witnessed also the abandonment of Fort Davy Crockett.

Fur trapper Robert Newell lamented the fact that the mountain men were becoming horse thieves and robbers. Summarizing the feelings of old mountain

men toward the demise of the fur trade and the new lawless breed, Newell told Joe Meek, "We are done with this life in the mountains--done with wading in beaver dams and freezing or starving alternately--done with Indian trading and Indian fighting. The fur trade is dead in the Rocky Mountains, and it is no place for us now...What do you say, Meek? Shall we turn American settlers (See Figure 3)?"²⁷

Though fur trade deteriorated, it continued for awhile in the Hole. William T. Hamilton describes a rendezvous in Brown's Hole in November 1842:

Several traders had come from the states with supplies, and there was quite a rivalry among them for our furs. Bovey and Company were the most liberal buyers, and we sold them the entire lot.

Besides the trappers, there were at the rendezvous many Indians--Shoshones, Utes, and a few lodges of Navajos,--who came to exchange their pelts for whatever they stood in need of. Take it all in all, it was just such a crowd as would delight the student were he studying the characteristics of the mountaineer and the Indian. The days were given to horse racing, foot racing, shooting matches; and in the evening were heard the music of voice and drum and the sound of dancing. There was also an abundance of reading matter for those inclined in that direction.²⁸

George Frederick Ruxton also describes a Brown's Hole rendezvous in the 1840s:

Singly, and in bands numbering from two to ten, the trappers dropped into the rendezvous; some with many pack loads of beaver, others with greater or less quantity, and more than one on foot, having lost his animals and peltry by Indian thieving. Here soon congregated many mountaineers, whose names are famous in the history of the Far West.²⁹



Photo 3. Joe Meek, Brown's Park fur trader. (Photo Credit: Utah State Historical Society).

Nevertheless, the fort soon deteriorated and eventually disappeared. John C. Fremont passed through the Hole in 1844 and noted "the remains of an old fort on the left bank of the river."³⁰

It seems likely, considering the fact that a group of old mountain men and squaws continued to live on at nearby Ft. Bridger, that some trapping would have continued in Brown's Hole even after the great demand for furs had ceased. Old Louis Simmons, for one, continued to trap in Brown's Hole into the 1870s.³¹ Josie Bassett Morris, remembering her sister Ann's birth (which she says was in 1874), recalled, "And I tell you, my sister was a curiosity, a baby in Brown's Park. Old trappers and old mountaineers of all kinds came to see the baby."³² However, the gradual abandonment of the fur trade in Brown's Hole ended one chapter in the valley's history and opened another of permanent settlers and cattlemen.

During the transitional period, Brown's Hole hosted some important visitors. On his way to New York in 1842, Marcus Whitman passed through the Hole heading southeast to avoid hostile Indians who were rumored to be in the South Pass area.³³ In 1849, a band of Cherokee Indians enroute to the California gold fields wintered in Brown's Hole.³⁴ That same year, another band of Fortyniners, fearful of wintering among the Mormons in Salt Lake City, floated through Brown's Hole on the Green River seeking a route to the coast. After a terrifying trip through the rapids in Lodore Canyon, the group, under William Manly, left the river and headed to Salt Lake, having decided to take their chances with the Mormons after all.³⁵

Little is heard of Brown's Hole during the 1850s, but by the 1860s, Brown's

Hole's reputation as a favorite wintering spot for cattle began to grow as a direct response to the discovery of gold in California and the continued growth of population there. Many Texas cattlemen found it necessary to winter their herds enroute to the coast and Brown's Hole proved to be the ideal spot. The earliest, arriving in the early fifties, was W. H. Snyder who had purchased cattle in Texas for \$10 a head and sold them in California for \$30 per head.³⁶

Although most of Brown's Hole's permanent settlers did not arrive until the 1870s, "Uncle Sam" Bassett, from upstate New York, ventured into the Hole as early as 1842. According to an entry in Bassett's diary, Brown's Hole saw its first white woman on June 22, 1854. Warren D. Parsons and his wife "Snapping Annie" had arrived. "Our first white squaw," Bassett wrote, "is expertly driving her slick oxen, Turk and Lion." With the arrival of the female bullwhacker, Bassett, a confirmed bachelor, lamented that "Man's freedom in this paradise is doomed (See Figure 4)."³⁷

Major John Wesley Powell visited Brown's Hole on his famous river expeditions in 1869 and 1871; however, he had been in Brown's Hole in 1868 while exploring the area in preparation for the journey. During this preliminary period, Major Powell and his wife Emma walked to the hills, climbed the summit and looked down upon Brown's Hole and the river. In that beautiful setting, he assured her of his determination to succeed in the exploration.³⁸

Powell's first river expedition reached Brown's Hole on June 4, 1869. His diary records, "We start early and run through to Brown's Park." He goes on to say:

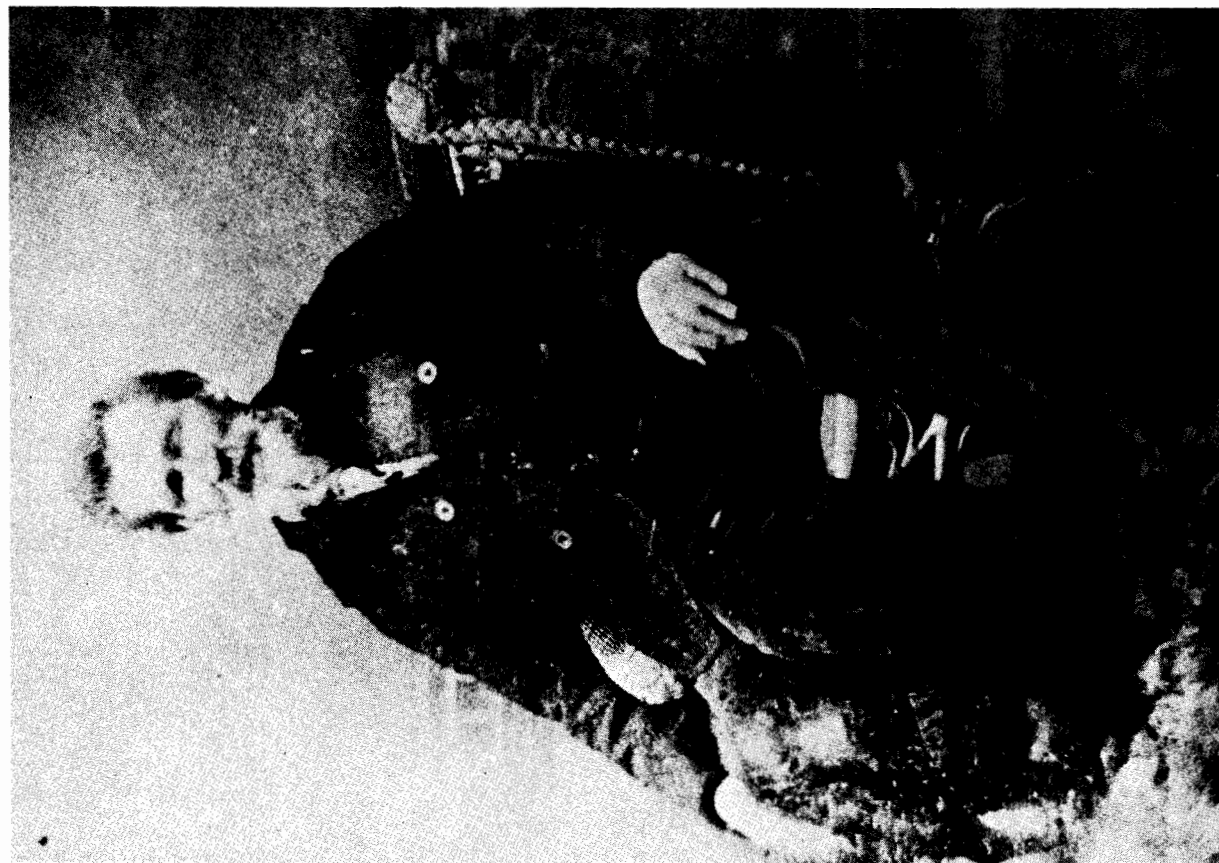


Photo 4. Sam Bassett, early Brown's Park settler.
(Photo Credit: Glade Ross Collection).

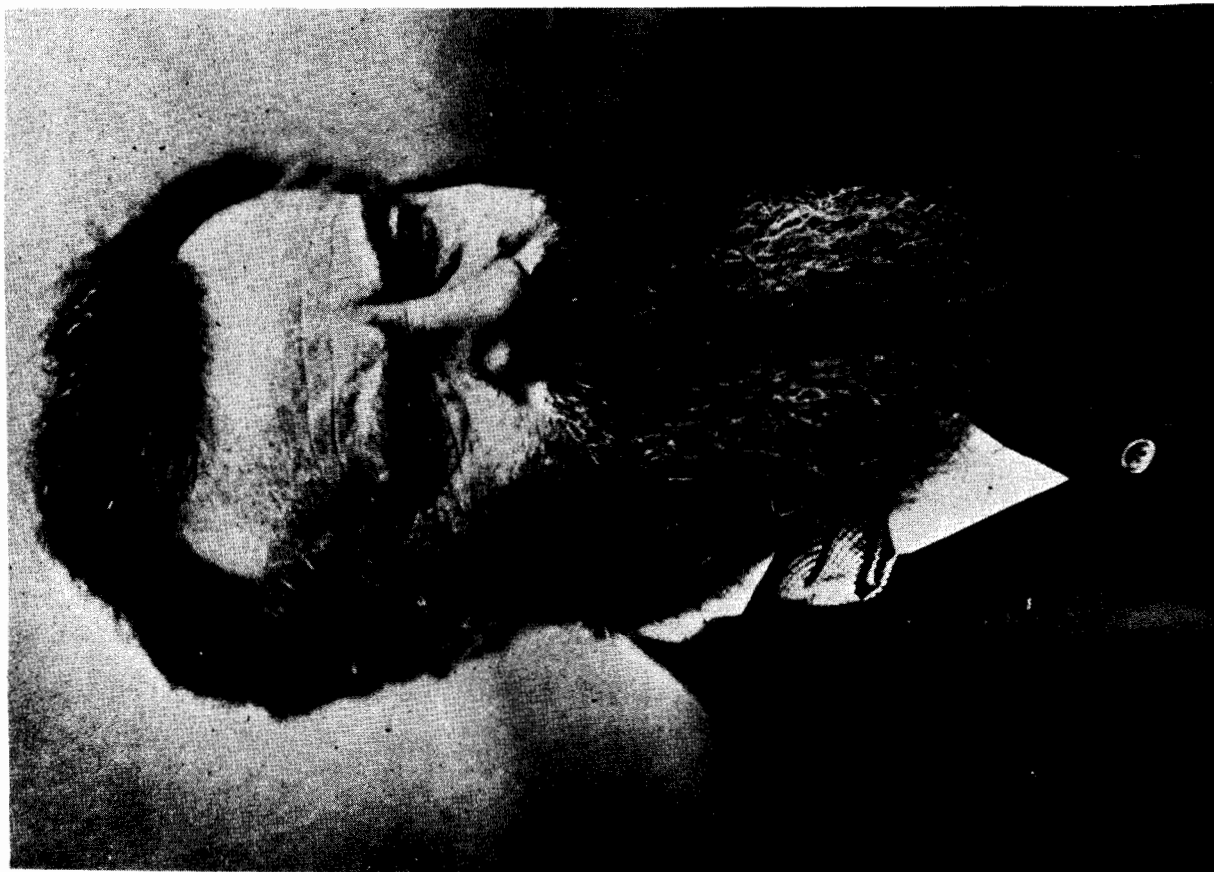


Photo 5. John Wesley Powell. (Photo Credit: Utah
State University Special Collections).

Halfway down the valley, a spur of red mountain stretches across the river, which cuts a canyon through it. Here the walls are comparatively low, but vertical. A vast number of swallows have built their adobe houses on the face of the cliffs.... The young birds stretch their little heads on naked necks through the doorways of their mud houses, clamoring for food. They are noisy people. We call this Swallow Canyon.³⁹

George Y. Bradley's journal describes a portion of the journey through Brown's Hole: "June 6, '69.... The river is so broad and still and the wind contrary that we have had to row all the way and I feel quite weary tonight. Would rather have rapids than still water, but think I shall be accommodated, for we have now reached the canyon at the lower end of Brown's Hole...."⁴⁰

It was on this trip that Andrew Hall "surprised the major with a display of learning by suggesting that the canyon be named Lodore after the waterfall in Cumberland commemorated in Southey's poem."⁴¹

On Powell's second expedition in 1871, he arrived in Brown's Hole on June 8. This time he met two Texas cattlemen, Harrell and Bacon, who had wintered there with eighty-five hundred head of cattle, eighty ponies, and ten Mexican herders. Powell's men exchanged goods and left letters with Harrell to be posted at Green River Station. They also left one of the crew members, Frank Richardson. Richardson had proved unable to cope with the voyage. He was constantly getting into trouble, being bruised and scraped. "To top his achievements, while eating, he sat on a hot coal, ignited his pants, yelled 'fire', and jumped into the river."⁴²

Captain F. M. Bishop's journal records: "Frank will leave us here and go back to Green River Station, as he was found in no way suitable for the trip. He is not of much value, yet he is one of us." Jack Hillers's diary also records the parting: "Everything being ready, the boys all shuk hands with Frank. He felt bad about leaving, the tears were in his eyes, but failed to shed any. I felt bad about leaving him."⁴³ Richardson's discharge, notwithstanding, the 1871 trip through Brown's Hole was a peaceful one. The boats were lashed side by side, and Powell, from his high perch read aloud Scott's poem The Lady of the Lake.⁴⁴

Powell is often credited with changing the name of Brown's Hole to Brown's Park. If he, indeed, is responsible, he does not mention it in his journals or emphasize the naming as he did with Swallow Canyon, Flaming Gorge, Gates of Lodore, or any of the other sites he christened. His men also treat the matter quite casually: Hillers, "Major called it Brown's Park...this park used to be called Brown's Hole;" Bishop, " 'Brown's Park', more generally known as 'Brown's Hole', is a valley some thirty miles long, and averaging about ten miles in width."⁴⁵

It is ironic, although very much in keeping with the character of the area, that the valley named after an unknown would also have its name changed by an unknown. Whether or not Powell is responsible for the name change, the valley was being called Brown's Park by 1869 and along with the new name a new era was beginning for the area.

Geography and nature had called the valley's first inhabitants. Their marks upon it had "claimed" it for America and forced it into the path of American

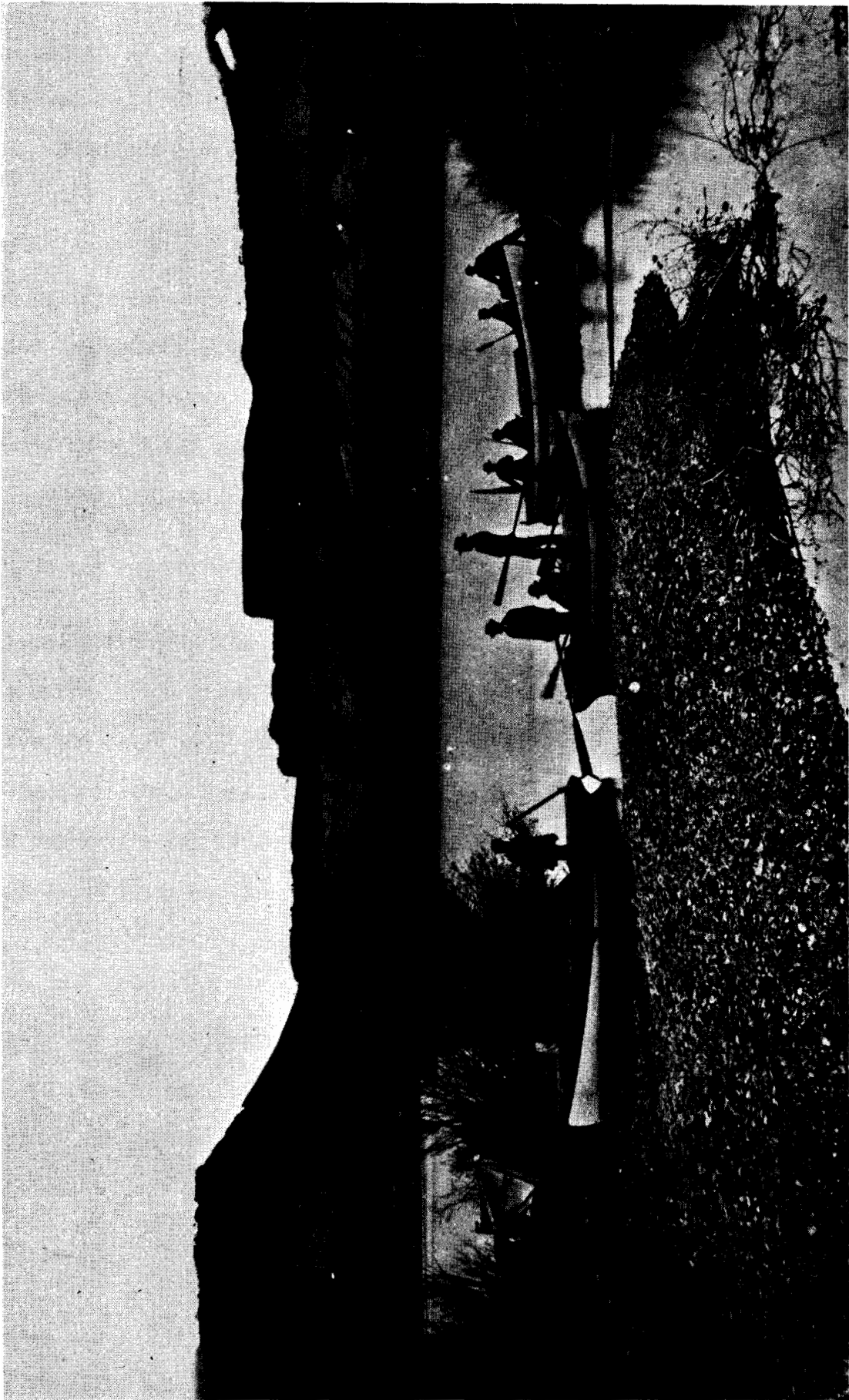


Photo. 6. Members of Powell's 1871 expedition departing Green River, Wyoming. (Photo Credit: Utah State University Special Collections).

expansion. Now new forces were about to emerge. Brown's Hole had been the home of nomadic Indians and mountain men. Brown's Park would be the home of permanent settlers like John Jarvie who would play host to other nomadic bands when such colorful characters as Kid Curry, Sundance Kid, Butch Cassidy, and the Wild Bunch would turn Brown's Park into a favorite watering hole along the Outlaw Trail.

CHAPTER II

BROWN'S PARK 1871-1913: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE BEAUTIFUL

In his book The Great Salt Lake, Western historian Dale Morgan asked the question "Who shall say whether the thousand existences in quiet do not more nearly express the shape of human experience than the fiercely spotlighted existence that survives as history?"⁴⁶ As the Brown's Hole era of the mountain men and explorers gave way to the Brown's Park of cattle ranchers and settlers, the valley became a harbor for "existences in quiet." It became the home for a community of common people seeking their share of the American dream. While many of them were undeniably colorful characters, they were not "fiercely spotlighted" on a national or global scale. Their struggles were personal ones. Their victories and failures did not create noticeable waves beyond the mountains which walled in their world. Their activities, indeed, expressed "the shape of human experience." The few who have become household names, like Butch Cassidy, were not permanent settlers, but rather, temporary visitors who were able to take advantage of the unique harbor offered by Brown's Park; a harbor which was not only geographical but also cultural. It was the result of human nature reacting to physical nature on the frontier.

"Frontiers are not east or west, north or south," said Thoreau, "but wherever a man fronts a fact."⁴⁷ The facts fronted by early settlers in Brown's Park were nature, geography, and isolation. Their society was created by their response to those fronts. Isolation and geography had a leveling effect on society. Blacks, Mexicans, and whites interacted to a degree that would have been unthinkable in urban areas of the era. Likewise, wealth did not neces-

sarily guarantee social standing. Rich and poor alike were subjected to the same laws of nature and, thus, competed for survival as equals. Cooperation and mutual interdependence were mandated by the Brown's Park stage. Certainly personality conflicts and rivalries existed but they were reduced to pettiness by the necessities of the physical setting. While the Hoys and the Crouses might maintain a verbal feud, they could always count on mutual assistance in cases of illness or serious crisis. Genteel Southerner Elizabeth Bassett befriended and depended on ex-slave Isom Dart while ferryman and storekeeper John Jarvie occasionally employed known outlaws without fear for life or property. Such seemingly incongruous situations were merely Brown's Park's way of dealing with its physical setting.

Response to its physical situation gave Brown's Park a particular set of mores. The Brown's Park mores, in turn, created a society with a unique outlook on the nature of law. Two major related themes dominated the area from 1871 until 1913: cattle rustling and outlaw sheltering. The permanent residents in Brown's Park, who were considered to be law abiding by their peers, were nearly all cattle rustlers to some degree. Those who were not rustlers were content to allow known law breakers to inhabit their valley periodically. Brown's Park had developed its own code of ethics.

The code of ethics applied equally to the permanent "law abiding rustlers" and the transient outlaws. Both groups developed ethics which fit their situations and rejected those of society which did not. Both had a Robin Hood orientation. The rustlers would acquire stock at the expense of the larger outfits (consequently, approval of rustling diminished as the size of the rustler's own herd grew) and the outlaws would take from the rich (banks and

railroads) and give to the poor (themselves).⁴⁸ While Brown's Park tolerated thievery, it held life as sacred and would not condone murder. Jack Bennett paid with his life for his association with killers. John Jarvie's murderers, although they escaped, were pursued beyond the Park. Ann Bassett carried out a vendetta against a cattle baron suspected of ordering murder. While Brown's Park existed outside certain definitions of the law, it strictly adhered to its own code of ethics.⁴⁹

Beneath the periodic outbursts of excitement, the "existences in quiet" which made up the majority of the Brown's Park citizenry, continued their unheralded day to day activities which, as Morgan wrote, "express the shape of human experience."

One of the first more or less permanent residents of Brown's Park was Juan Jose Herrera, a native of New Mexico nicknamed "Mexican Joe." Herrera had come to Brown's Park via South Pass, Wyoming, in 1870 with a small group of men intent on starting a cattle business by acquiring a few head from every big outfit that passed through the Park. Herrera and his men settled in the eastern end of the valley.⁵⁰

The next year, 1871, Herrera sent for his attorney friend Asbury B. Conway of South Pass. Conway moved in with the Mexicans and managed to maintain an almost constant state of inebriation. Conway was one of the local boys who made good. He eventually left Brown's Park, entered into a political career in Wyoming and "in the election of state officers held on September 11, 1890, the one time horse thief and cattle rustler was named a justice of the Supreme Court...[He] became Chief Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court in

1897...."51

Juan left Brown's Park temporarily in the late 1880s and returned to New Mexico where he organized a group of masked, native night riders known as the White Caps or las Gorras Blancas who resisted Anglo land encroachment in San Miguel county. The group eventually numbered 700 and operated in three counties. Juan and his brother, Pablo, were also active in the Knights of Labor organization in which Juan served as a district organizer. He was "capable of understanding the new ideas and attitudes regarding unions which being generated by the labor unrest of this period. His command of English was excellent...he once served as a translator for the New Mexico territorial legislature."⁵² Following his days of activism, Juan returned to Brown's Park and lived out his life in relative obscurity.

While the Herrera gang were not outlaws in the traditional sense, another group which frequented Brown's Park during the period definitely was. They were the Tip Gault Gang. Among the gang's number were Tip Gault, Jack Leath, Joe Pease, a Mexican known only as Terresa, and an ex-slave, Ned Huddleston. Huddleston had been born in Arkansas in 1849. After the Civil War, he drifted into Mexico and Texas working as a rodeo clown and eventually arrived in Brown's Park with a cattle drive. One evening the Gault Gang was burying a member who had been kicked to death by a horse when they were ambushed by a group of cowboys seeking revenge for earlier Gault wrong-doings. All of the gang were killed except Huddleston who jumped into the grave and played dead. Ned eventually crawled out of the grave and stole a horse from a nearby ranch to make his getaway. The rancher spotted him and managed to shoot him in the leg as he rode away. Exhausted from the loss of blood, Ned fell off of his

horse and passed out on the trail. Miraculously, Ned was discovered and nursed back to health by William "Billy Buck" Tittsworth who, as a youngster in Arkansas, had lived on a plantation neighboring Ned's. The two men had been close friends in their youth and had not seen each other for years before that fateful night on the trail. Huddleston managed to get to Green River City where he caught the first train out of town. He changed his name and determined to go straight. He would eventually return to Brown's Park as Isom Dart.⁵³

In 1871, George Baggs wintered a herd of Texas cattle in Brown's Park. Though cattle elsewhere perished during the winter, Baggs did not loose a single one of his nine hundred head. Thus the fame of Brown's Park continued to spread. Baggs sold his herd to Crawford and Thompson in Wyoming and the same cattle were driven back to Brown's Park by Jesse S. Hoy the following winter. Arriving in Brown's Park, Hoy found it already occupied by nearly 4,000 cattle belonging to two Texas outfits run by Asa and Hugh Adair and a Mr. Keiser. The cattle were not as fortunate during the winter of 1872-1873 and at least 500 died before spring.⁵⁴

Hoy, however, was so impressed by the potential of Brown's Park that he encouraged other members of his family to relocate there. His brother Valentine arrived in 1873 along with Sam and George Spicer and about 300 cattle. Adea Hoy and Benjamin Hoy arrived in 1875 and Harry Hoy arrived in 1880. "The Hoys, with family money to invest, had ambitions of setting up a range empire on the Iliff model, but found themselves so hedged in by other outfits and belligerent homesteaders that they had to content themselves with relatively modest spreads."⁵⁵



Photo 7. Parsons' Cabin, Brown's Park first post office. (Photo Credit: Utah State Historical Society).

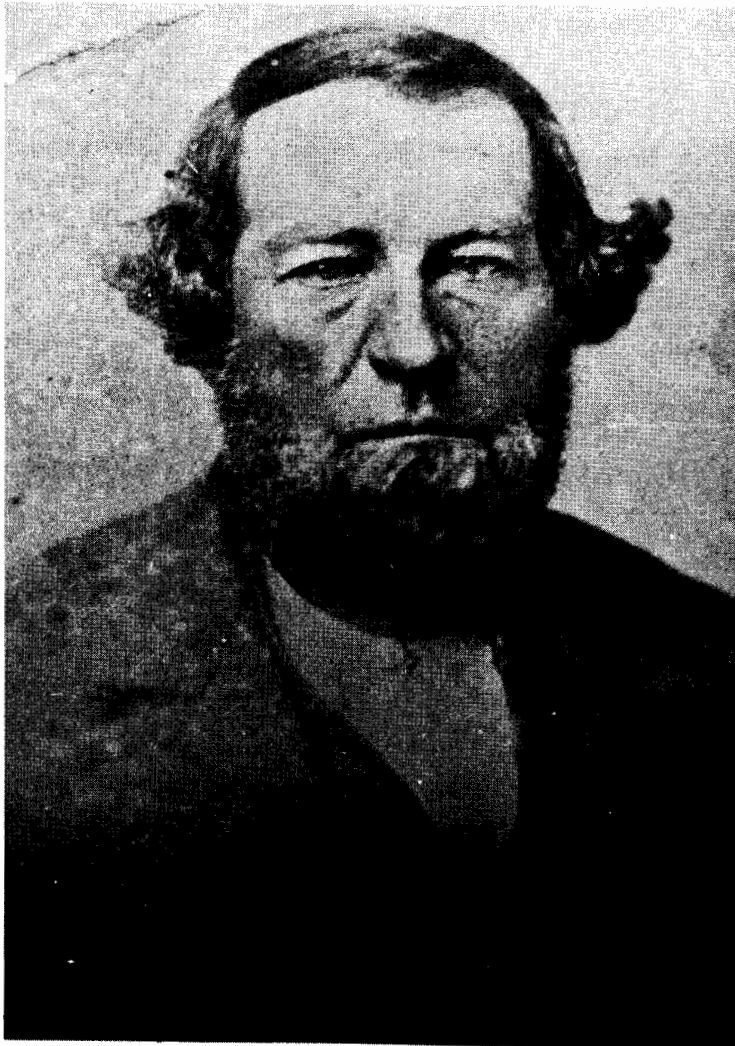


Photo 8. Dr. John Parsons. (Photo Credit: Glade Ross Collection).

Dr. John Parsons (son of Warren Parsons and "Snappin' Annie", the first white woman to enter Brown's Park) brought his family to Brown's Park around 1874. He built a cabin near Sears Creek and a smelter and a forge on the north side of the Green River. He also started a ferry operation on the river and was appointed postmaster of the first Brown's Park post office in 1878. (John Jarvie became postmaster, ferry operator, and also owner of the Parsons property following the doctor's death in 1881.) The Parsons cabin was used by the outlaw Matt Warner and the Chew family. For years it was known as the oldest building in Brown's Park. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was certainly over 100 years old when it was burned to the ground by some careless hunters during the summer of 1978.⁵⁶

The late 1870s and early 1880s saw a substantial influx of new settlers arriving in Brown's Park, most of whom settled in the Utah section. Jimmie Reed and his Indian wife, Margaret, built a cabin on the south side of the Green River on what was then known as Jimmie Reed Creek. Billy Buck Tittsworth, Isom Dart's boyhood friend and rescuer, built on the river opposite Dr. Parsons.⁵⁷ Other settlers included Frank Orr, Hank Ford, Jim Warren, Dr. Warren Parsons (John's son), Griff and Jack Edwards, George, James, and Walter Scrivner, Tom Davenport, Tommy Dowdle, Frank Goodman (one of John Wesley Powell's men), Harry Hindle, and John Jarvie.⁵⁸

Charlie Crouse arrived in 1876 and along with Aaron Overholt set up a ranch near the head of Pot creek to breed and raise horses. Born in Richmond, Virginia, in 1851, Charlie left home at the age of nine and wandered the West before settling first in Rock Springs and finally in Brown's Park. In 1879,



Photo 9. Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Crouse. (Photo Credit: Glade Ross Collection).



Photo 10. Herbert Bassett. (Photo Credit: Glade Ross Collection).

he married Mary Law (the daughter of George Law, one of John Jarvie's early Rock Springs roommates) and in 1880, he bought out Jimmie Reed's claim and Jimmie Reed Creek became Crouse Creek. Crouse and Overholt opened a livery stable and saloon in Vernal, Utah, which gained a reputation as an outlaw hangout.⁵⁹

Crouse became well known for his fine horses and often raced them. An article in the Uintah Papoose of Vernal, February 4, 1892, reads: "Charley Crouse and John Mantle are to have another horse race on the 14th of May. One horse against the other and 21 head of cattle on the side....The winner is to get the two horses and 42 head of cattle. Forfeits are up and someone will certainly lose."⁶⁰ Charlie won the race but was accused of doping his opponent's horse. The issue raged for several weeks and a "Special Dope Issue" of the newspaper was devoted entirely to the subject on May 24. Crouse was eventually found innocent of the charges.

In the early 1900s, Crouse built a bridge and established the small town of Bridgeport a mile downstream from the Jarvie ferry and general store. Consequently, Jarvie's business suffered for two years until the bridge washed away and Bridgeport vanished.

Herbert Bassett, encouraged by his brother Sam who had come to Brown's Park years earlier with Kit Carson's son-in-law Louie Simmons, came to Brown's Park with his wife Mary Elizabeth and two small children, Josie and Sam, in 1877. In 1878, Ann was born, the first white child to be born in Brown's Park. Elizabeth could not nurse the baby so an Indian woman was found to serve as wet nurse. Consequently, Ann always claimed that she was part Indian.⁶¹

Herbert Bassett was a man out of place in the rugged Brown's Park frontier. He was intellectual and musical, a scholar in a place where hard labor, not mental ability, was necessary. Elizabeth, a gracious southern belle, decided "if she and her children were to survive, it was entirely up to her. She'd have to--figuratively and literally--rustle for their living...before long the Bassetts had a nice herd of Durham cattle...."⁶² Soon a group of Elizabeth's followers and admirers including Matt Rash, Isom Dart, Angus McDougal, and Jim McKnight became known as the Bassett Gang. "Technically, 'rustling' cattle was a felony offense. It is not an exaggeration to say, however, that with very few exceptions, everybody...in Brown's Park engaged in it."⁶³

Although the girls, Josie and Ann, were given proper educations (including Miss Porter's select Finishing School for Girls in Boston), they could ride and rope with the best cowhands and Ann, subsequently, earned the title "Queen of the Cattle Rustlers."

In the 1870s, a man named Clay, financed by Boston interests, set up the Middlesex Land and Cattle Company just north of Brown's Park. Having visions of a vast cattle empire, Clay threatened to "buy all the 'little fellows' out or drive them out of the country."⁶⁴ Only two outfits sold out to the Clay company.

Faced with this threat on their own cattle and land, the Brown's Park factions united, for once, to fight a common enemy. If there was nothing they could do to stop the Middlesex cattle from moving south, at least they could arrange it



Photo 12. The
Bassett Ranch at Pablo
Springs. (Photo
Credit: Utah State
Historic Society).



so that there would be nothing for the cattle to eat when they arrived. Thus the cattlemen of Brown's Park went into the sheep business. They fenced the gateway to Brown's Park with a barrier of sheep, and during the winter the Middlesex cattle starved for lack of food.⁶⁵ With the collapse of the cattle boom in 1884 and the hard winter of 1886-1887, Middlesex was finished. All that remains of the Middlesex empire today is the name Clay Basin north of the Park.

Until the 1890s, the Brown's Park ethic allowed for horse thieves and cattle rustlers almost exclusively, "But with the arrival of Butch Cassidy...it was to enter upon a new era."⁶⁶ Ann Zwinger stated it nicely when she described Brown's Park as "a more or less permanent hideout for many who found total honesty a personal encumbrance."⁶⁷ Brown's Park became one of the three major hideouts along the Outlaw Trail (the others being Hole-in-the-Wall in Wyoming and Robbers' Roost in southern Utah).

Ann Bassett explained the situation to her friend Esther Campbell years later:

There was a reason why the people of Brown's Park were not interested in starting a row with the outlaws. In the first place, we did not know what their business really was. And we were pretty good at tending to our own affairs.... They started no trouble with us and we let them alone. The young people of each group mingled and liked each other.

Ann hints at other interests, however, as she continues: "And let me say they had some cute boys with their outfit. It was a thrill to see Henry Rhudenbaugh [The Sundance Kid] tall, blond & handsome...."⁶⁸

In Brown's Park, Butch Cassidy and his companions felt safe because



Photo 13. Members of the Wild Bunch: Harry Longabaugh (Sundance Kid), Bill Carver, Ben Kilpatrick, Harvey Logan (Kid Curry), and Butch Cassidy. (Photo Credit: Utah State University Special Collections).

few law officers dared venture across the treacherous trails into the distant park, and those who did, whether from Colorado, Wyoming, or Utah, were faced with the frustration finding their quarry just out of reach across the state line. The outlaws who haunted the region knew their geography well in this unusual patchwork of state territories and easily managed to elude their pursuers.⁶⁹

Pearl Baker writes that the Cassidy gang name is tied to Brown's Park:

...when they came to town to celebrate in Baggs, Vernal or other frontier towns. Saloon keepers called them 'that wild bunch from Brown's Park' and let them shoot up the place as much as they pleased, well knowing that they would come back and pay for all damage. It is said that bullet holes in the bar were worth \$1 each, and the rest of the damage was always settled for generously.⁷⁰

One of the outlaws' favorite hiding places was a cabin hidden among thick cedars not far from Charlie Crouse's ranch. There they would rest and play poker and if any lawmen approached, Crouse would send a rider to warn them.⁷¹

Butch divided his time between the hidden cabin and the Bassett ranch where he turned his attentions toward Josie Bassett. It was probably to Butch's advantage that Josie did not return his affections. "It would seem that Josie Bassett McKnight Ranney Williams Wells Morris had mighty poor luck at picking husbands and much better luck at getting rid of them."⁷²

Cassidy was held in high regard by the people of Brown's Park who were open to his friendliness and sense of humor. Lula Parker Betenson, Butch's sister,

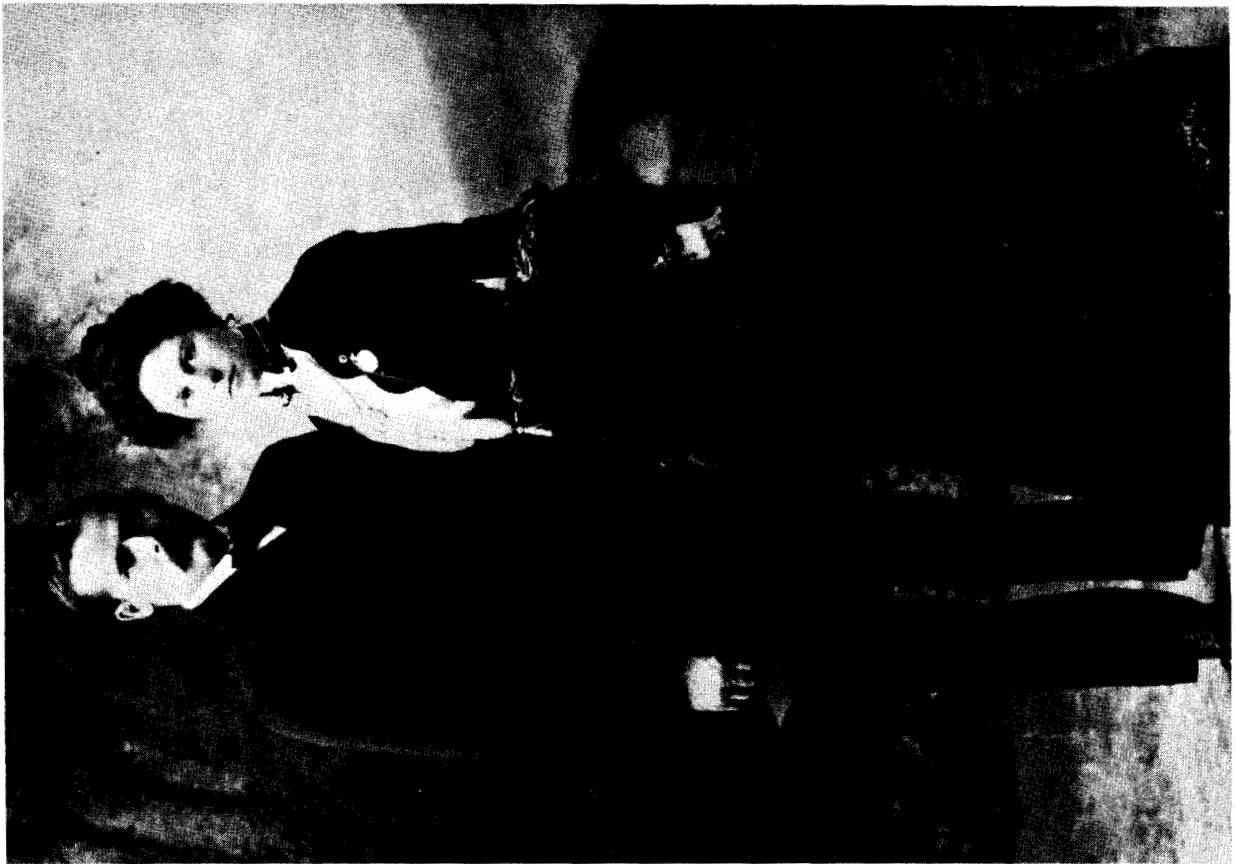


Photo 14. The Sundance Kid and his girlfriend, Etta Place. (Photo Credit: Utah State University Special Collections).



Photo 15. Elza Lay, Butch Cassidy's right-hand man. (Photo Credit: Glade Ross Collection).

said "any of the local people would willingly harbor Bob [Butch] and other outlaws. Bob occupied a special place in their hearts. Wherever he worked, he did an honest day's labor for his pay. They trusted him."⁷³

Matt Rash, a nephew of Davy Crockett, had come to the area as a trail boss for Middlesex. He fell in with the Bassett Gang and, along with Isom Dart, became one of Mrs. Bassett's strongest supporters and soon found himself engaged to Ann. He became the first president of the Brown's Park Cattle Association and helped to establish a dividing line separating the Brown's Park cattle from those of Ora Haley and the Two Bar cattle empire east of the Park. In spite of the line, Two Bar cattle continued to venture into Brown's Park and they continued to be absorbed by Brown's Park herds.

In April of 1900, a stranger arrived in Brown's Park giving his name as Tom Hicks and his occupation as a horse buyer. Ann Bassett, using female intuition, mistrusted Hicks from the start and soon came to the conclusion that he was not a cowboy. Shortly after his arrival, notices appeared on the cabin doors of the Park's more notorious cattle procurers advising them to leave the Park or else. The warnings were laughed at until one night Matt Rash received a visitor. "The ranchman did not even have time to stand up before three shots came in quick succession. After a few moments of silence...a fourth shot sounded. The party who had fired on Rash had paused long enough to kill his mare [which had been a gift from his friend Elizabeth Bassett]."⁷⁴ His body was discovered sometime later, in an advanced stage of decomposition, by young Felix Meyers.

Matt Rash was not the only one to die in such a fashion. Early one October



Photo 16. Josie Bassett
McKnight Ranney Williams
Wells Morris at age eighty-
five. (Photo Credit: Glade
Ross Collection).

Photo 17. Josie at her
cabin on Cub Creek near
Jensen, Utah. (Photo
Credit: Utah State
Historical Society).



morning, Isom Dart walked out of his cabin and two shots rang out. Isom fell dead, a bullet through his head. "Under a nearby tree, they found two empty thirty-thirty shells.... Everyone was now convinced--Ann Bassett had been right. Tom Hicks was the only man around who carried that caliber rifle."⁷⁵

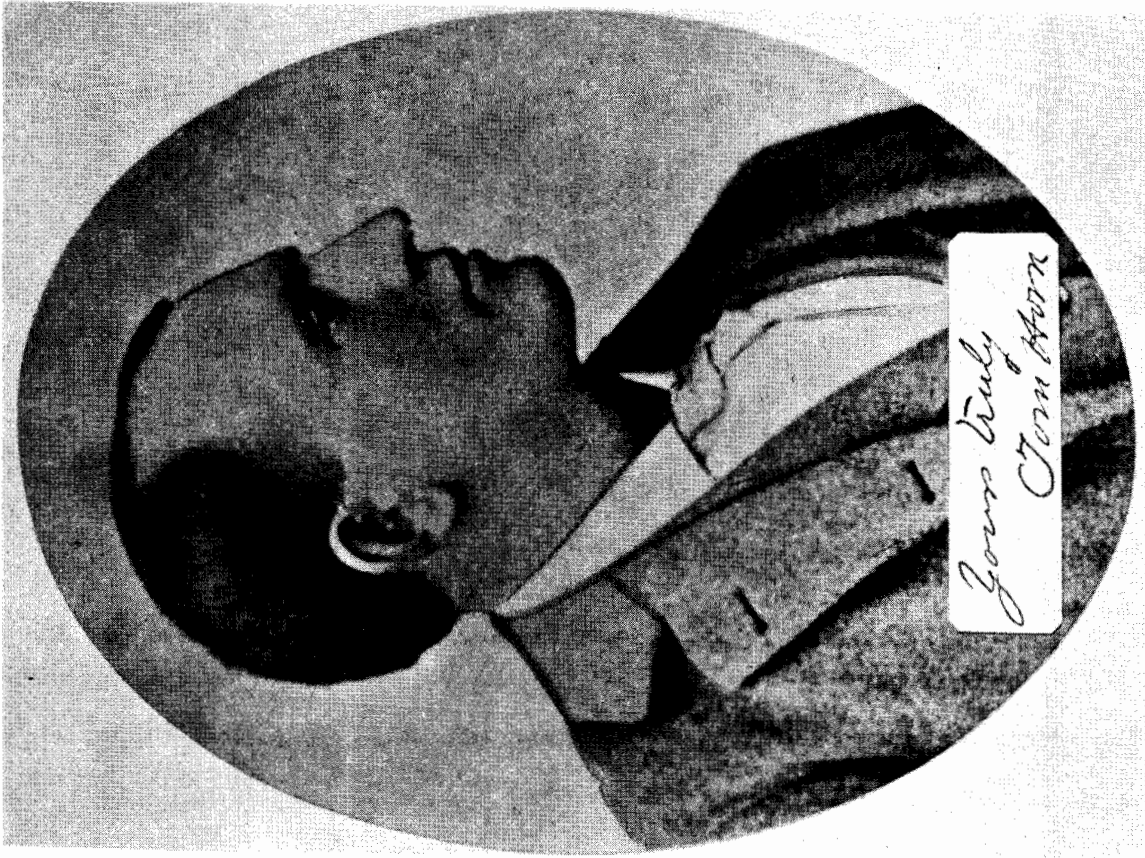
The stranger was, in reality, Tom Horn, infamous killer for hire. The people of Brown's Park believed that Ora Haley had been instrumental in hiring Horn as a "stock detective" to protect his cattle interests. "No one, in all probability, will ever know just who his employers were, for when Tom floated into the world of myth and legend, the men who had hired him locked their secrets in their own hearts."⁷⁶

Ann Bassett, "Queen of the Cattle Rustlers," earned her sobriquet and declared a personal war on Ora Haley and the Two Bar empire due to what she considered was their insatiable lust for land of the small settler and out of revenge for the Tom Horn killings of her friend Isom Dart and her fiance Matt Rash. Her deeds included driving hundreds of Two Bar cattle over the cliffs into the Green River and have become Brown's Park legends.⁷⁷

She was eventually brought to trial in 1913 on charges of cattle rustling. The courtroom in Craig was packed with her supporters who saw the entire trial as a contest between the little people and the cattle barons.⁷⁸ They did not care if she was guilty or innocent. They simply wanted to see millionaire Ora Haley humbled and humbled he was. When he took the witness stand, he inadvertently admitted to having nearly twice as many cattle in Moffat County as he had filed with the county assessor.⁷⁹



Photo 18. Matt Rash, Ann Bassett's fiance and victim of Tom Horn. (Photo Credit: Glade Ross Collection).



*Yours Truly
Tom Horn*

Photo 19. Tom Horn, alias Tom Hicks, visited Brown's Park in 1900 as a stock detective. (Photo Credit: Utah State Historical Society).



Photo 20. "Queen Ann" Bassett in her seventies.
(Photo Credit: Utah State Historical
Society).

In less than an hour, the jury acquitted the sweet, demure, little lady and the courtroom went wild.⁸⁰ A sign reading "HURRAH FOR VICTORY" was flashed on the screen at the Craig silent movie theater and the audience jumped to its feet cheering. Bonfires were lit in the main street and Queen Ann presided over an all night victory dance.⁸¹

Just as the demise of Fort Davy Crockett signaled the end of the mountain man era in Brown's Park, the flames from the bonfires in the streets of Craig marked the end of another era: the era of the cattle rustler and outlaw.

The bonfires marked the triumph of Morgan's "existences in quiet," for the commoner (if a female cattle rustler can be considered common) had defeated the empire builder and the people of Brown's Park could continue their day to day struggle with nature as victors. The people of Brown's Park had come for many reasons and when they arrived they were faced with the task of building a society that would be responsive to nature and geography. They discarded some institutions and modified others to fit their situation. Their outlook on law was not dictated by legislation, but rather, by common sense and necessity. Laws of nature became more important than the laws of men. Consequently, Brown's Park cattlemen did not terrorize local sheepmen, but became sheepmen themselves when shepherding proved to be the more practical, economical response to the environment. And righteous young women saw no harm in smuggling homebaked pies to poker playing bandits hiding in the cedars on Diamond Mountain. Brown's Park society was a combination of the good, the bad, and the beautiful, and very often they were all one and the same.

CHAPTER III

JOHN JARVIE

Saloonkeeper

John Jarvie was born in Scotland in 1844. According to an undocumented family legend, Jarvie worked in a Scottish mine as a youth where he was severely beaten by his supervisor. When he recovered from the beating, he stowed away on a ship bound for America and bid farewell to his native land.⁸² Whether he stowed away as a boy or immigrated as a young man, Jarvie had arrived in America by 1870. He settled in Rock Springs, Wyoming Territory, where he shared a residence with four other Scotch immigrants. Twenty-six year old Jarvie was the youngest of the group which included two laborers (twenty-seven year old James Strain and forty-eight year old Herbert Mathie), one coal miner (fifty-eight year old George Law), and twenty-seven year old retail liquor dealer George Young. Jarvie, like Young, was also a retail liquor dealer.⁸³

Jarvie purchased the Will Wale Saloon on busy North Front Street across from the Union Pacific depot just east of the Central Hotel between J Street and K Street for \$500.00. He later mortgaged the property to Moses Millington for \$675.00. The Jarvie saloon was a one and one-half story frame building lined with adobe measuring twenty-four feet square. It included a dining room, kitchen, and store room. Between 1871 and 1880, he renewed his business licenses regularly. His licenses allowed him to sell wholesale liquor and retail liquor and to operate one billiard table. During 1873, he entered into a partnership with a man named McGlowin. The partnership was a brief one and by



Photo 21. John Jarvie 1844-1909. (Photo Credit: Bureau of Land Management).



Photo 22. "Pretty Little Nell", Nellie Barr, married John Jarvie in 1880. (Photo Credit: Glade Ross Collection).

the end of the year, Jarvie was again sole proprietor of the establishment.⁸⁴

On Friday, October 8, 1875, Jarvie appeared before the District Court of Sweetwater County. Having met the necessary residency requirements and having "behaved himself as a man of good moral character attached to the principles contained in the Constitution of the United States . . .," Jarvie was naturalized and became a citizen of the United States.⁸⁵

Storekeeper

In 1880, at the age of 36, Jarvie married Nellie Barr, a young lady of 22 who had emigrated from the British Isles. Her family had settled in Pennsylvania, but because of health reasons had decided to move west. Enroute to Ogden, Utah, where they eventually settled, the Barrs stopped in Rock Springs long enough for Nellie and Jarvie to become acquainted.⁸⁶

Their acquaintance may have originated in the Jarvie saloon where vaudeville type entertainment was frequently provided. "Pretty Little Nell," as she was fondly referred to by the Brown's Parkers, may have been a singer in the vaudeville show. Minnie Crouse Rasmussen recalled that Nellie "had a beautiful voice and used it," while Ann Bassett wrote that Brown's Park settlers "Mr. Davenport, Mrs. Jarvie, and Mrs. Allen [Elizabeth] possessed beautiful voices, and they sang many of the old heart songs."⁸⁷ The marriage took place June 17, 1880, and that same year the newlyweds left Rock Springs and moved to Brown's Park, Utah.⁸⁸ In Brown's Park Jarvie opened a general store-trading post on the north bank of the Green River. While the store and their log house were being built the newlyweds lived in a two room dugout

which was built for Jarvie by Bill Lawrence, a big, red headed Englishman.⁸⁹ The door was made of a single piece of tree trunk. The ridge log and many of the split cedar poles in the ceiling measured twelve to fifteen inches in diameter. The dugout was a cozy first home for the Jarvies in Brown's Park.

John and Nellie moved into a three room log house just east of the dugout within a year, and the dugout became a storage cellar. In later years it would serve as a hiding place for some of Brown's Park's more notorious transients. Minnie Crouse Rasmussen, whose father, Charlie Crouse, had many dealings with Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch recalls: "Many people . . . were interested in that [dugout] I don't mean for anything wrong and yet the outlaws could have, you know, they very well could have [used it]. He [Jarvie] certainly saw them as much as we did."⁹⁰

His store was the only one within seventy miles which necessitated carrying a large inventory in order to serve the pioneer families of the area. In a very real way, the Jarvie trading post was the heir to Fort Davy Crockett which had existed some forty years earlier. Fort Crockett had been the social and commercial center of early Brown's Hole, serving as a meeting place and source of goods for the fur traders in the same way the Jarvie post served the settlers of his day. "He sold just about everything from Indian flour, through new saddles, boots, wagon supplies, even had a pile of teepee pole for the Indians stacked outside" The Indian flour was a very poor grade of flour milled in Ashley, Utah.⁹¹ Liquor was also a popular item.

The fact that Jarvie sold liquor gave birth to the rumor that he was once again operating a saloon. Liquor, however, was only one of the many items he

sold in his store. The whiskey barrels were usually kept on a raised platform alongside the counter with their spigots ready for dispensing.⁹² At other times the spirits were kept in the basement. Minnie Crouse Rasmussen remembers: "There was kind of a basement, we'll call it, under the store where the freight was unloaded . . . the little barrel was there and maybe lots of barrels"93

The barrels eventually created problems for Jarvie. In 1892 he was taken to court by Sheriff Pope of Vernal, Utah, on the charge of selling liquor without a license. Two witnesses were produced who claimed to have purchased whiskey from Jarvie. The liquid was introduced as evidence and "The jury sampled the evidence and must have decided it was rot gut instead of whisky; anyway they returned a verdict of not guilty."⁹⁴

The following advertisement appeared in several issues of the Vernal Express:

"REWARD!
ONE HUNDRED POUNDS OF SUGAR
REWARD.
FOR EACH AND EVERY FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS OF OATS
DELIVERED AT J. JARVIE'S STORE
BROWN'S PARK"⁹⁵

The children of George Law, one of Jarvie's early Rock Springs roommates, eventually settled in Brown's Park also. Daughter Jean married Billy Tittsworth and daughter Elizabeth married Charles Allen. Daughter Mary wed

Charlie Crouse and settled on Crouse Creek which led to close ties between the Jarvies and Crouses. Son George Law, Jr. also moved to the Park. He might have celebrated fatherhood at the Jarvie whiskey barrels because on February 24, 1892, the Rock Springs Miner announced: "John Jarvie is in from Brown's Park. He reports George Law the father of a bouncing boy. Mother and son are well and George in time will be all right."⁹⁶

As business grew Jarvie found himself in need of increased storage space. He contracted the construction of a stone building a few feet south of the Jarvie home. "Mr. Stanley Crouse . . . remembered when the stone house was built in the 1880's. He said it was constructed by 'Judge' Bennett."⁹⁷ "Judge" Bennett was actually Jack Bennett or John Bennett. He received the nickname of "Judge" when he participated in a mock trial held by Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch. An M.D. had been summoned to attend one of the Bunch. The outlaw, unfortunately, died before the doctor arrived and the kangaroo court was called to determine whether the physician was guilty of murder or not! Bennett took the role of the presiding judge and the name stuck.⁹⁸

Bennett was not highly regarded by the people of Brown's Park. One man who knew Bennett said "we never considered that he belonged to the Cassidy gang proper. He was a member of the hanger-on gang that followed around and got the crumbs after the Cassidy bunch had cut the loaf."⁹⁹ Josie Bassett said that "John Bennett had been in the pen, he learned rock work there" which proved useful when he constructed the stone building for Jarvie.¹⁰⁰

The Jarvies' first child was born in 1881 and was named after his father. John Junior was followed by three other brothers (Tom, Archie, and Jim) who

arrived at two year intervals to complete the Jarvie family.

Postmaster

It has often been incorrectly recorded that Jarvie was Brown's Park's first postmaster.¹⁰¹ However, the first Brown's Park Post Office was established October 23, 1878, with Doc Parsons as postmaster. He received an annual salary of \$19.30 for his labors. In February of 1881, John Jarvie took over the position and the post office was moved from the Parsons cabin to the Jarvie property. Jarvie's salary has been recorded as \$24.98, \$109.92, and \$185.30 for the years 1881, 1883, and 1885 respectively.¹⁰²

The mail came through from Ft. Duchesne and Vernal, Utah, to Green River City and Rock Springs, Wyoming, and reverse every day. "Since he [Jarvie] read all the newspapers that came in, he was an authority on any happenings on the outside Postcards, of course, were read aloud to everyone who happened to be around."¹⁰³ The Jarvie post office, however, was to last only six years.

On June 8, 1887, the post office was closed. Jarvie had been asked to investigate some suspicious dealings including improper accounting for money orders taking place in the Vernal, Utah, post office under the direction of a postmaster by the name of Kraus. Jarvie did not wish to spy on a fellow postmaster and, instead, he packed up all of his records and paperwork and closed the Brown's Park post office. "Mr. Jarvie put all the pens and inks and paper and all the books and everything in a sack and sent it in and that was all of the post office. He told me this himself," recalls Minnie Crouse



Photo 23. John Jarvie in a rare photo showing him without his usual full beard. (Photo Credit: Glade Ross Collection).

Ferry Operation

In addition to his responsibilities as postmaster and storekeeper, Jarvie became a ferry operator in 1881. When Doc Parsons (previous ferry operator) died "John took over the ferry, which is usually known by his name. The first wool shipped from Ashley crossed the Green on Jarvie's ferry."¹⁰⁵

An article in the Vernal Express, April 21, 1898 states that

to accommodate the settlers of Ashley Valley, who sometimes travel through the Park and are short of cash, Mr. Jarvie announces that he will take any kind of farm produce in pay for ferrying bills, which will be appreciated, no doubt, by a great many, and give none an excuse to endeavor to beat their way across the river.¹⁰⁶

Jarvie's ferry operated from 1881 until his death in 1909. During the last couple of years the flatboat ferry was replaced by a hand operated cable car.¹⁰⁷ For a brief period of time during the early 1900s the Jarvie enterprise was put out of business when Charlie Crouse built a bridge a short distance downstream and established the small town of Bridgeport. ("Crouse charged \$1.00 for team and wagon, \$1.50 for 4 horse team, and 50¢ for a saddle horse" to cross his bridge.¹⁰⁸) During this period Jarvie mentions his situation in letters to his sons: "The Bridge has been finished for some time and the Ferry is lying in the river unused. I did not take the trouble to fix it this year," and "Crouse has a Bridge where Gray's Ferry used to be, and a P. Office and store. So I have very little to trade, and the

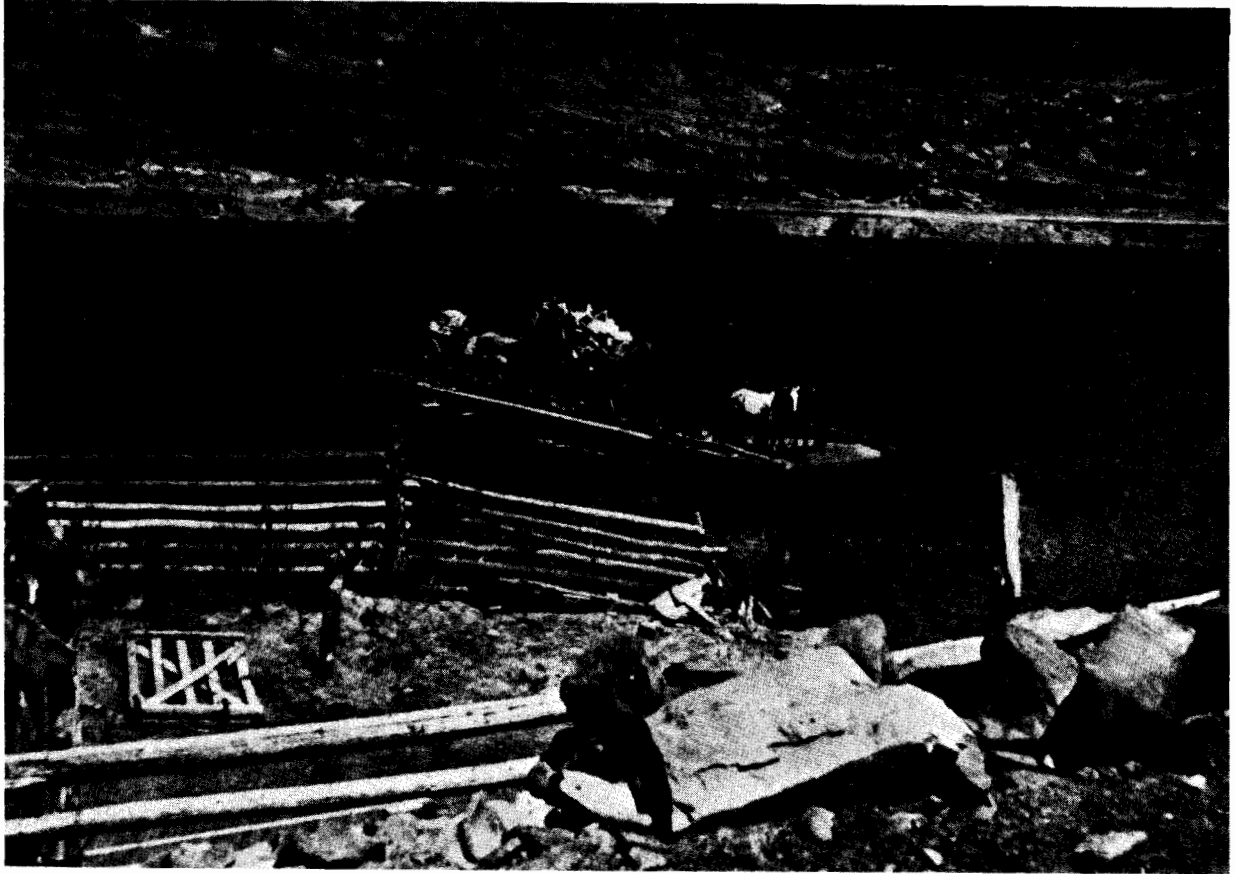


Photo 24. A ferry near Moab, Utah, which was similar to the Jarvie ferry in Brown's Park. (Photo Credit: Utah State University Special Collections).

ferry has not run for two years, but it does not take much to keep me here."¹⁰⁹ Luckily for Jarvie the Crouse bridge was shortlived. It lasted only a couple of seasons before it was destroyed by an ice flow.¹¹⁰

On one occasion Larry Curtin and Matt Warner attempted to cross the Green River on Jarvie's ferry. Instead of dismounting, Curtin, puffing on a cigar butt, rode his horse onto the flatboat. In the middle of the river the horse reared and fell into the high swift water along with his rider. Matt tossed him a rope and "While the horse swam to shore, Matt pulled Larry aboard. The cigar butt was still firmly in place."¹¹¹

Jarvie employed many of Brown's Park's colorful characters as either freighters for his store or ferry operators. Albert Williams, a black man, affectionately known as Speck (short for Speckled Nigger) due to his mottled complexion was one of the Park's best liked citizens. Speck "ran Jarvie's ferry for quite a spell."¹¹² Charlie Taylor and his young son Jess, Henry Whitcomb Jaynes, Harry Hindle (a diminutive Welshman who was famous for his plum duff), and Jim Warren freighted for Jarvie. Outlaw Matt Warner worked on the ferry at times.¹¹³

Mining Interests

While Jarvie's major sources of income were the store and the ferry, he also had mining and livestock interests. On February 20, 1897, Jarvie, along with Sterling D. Colton and Reuben S. Collett, purchased Addeline Hatch's half interest in the Bromide Lode Mining Claim on Douglas Mountain, Routt County, Colorado, for \$25,000.00. From Lorenzo Hatch Jarvie purchased an undivided

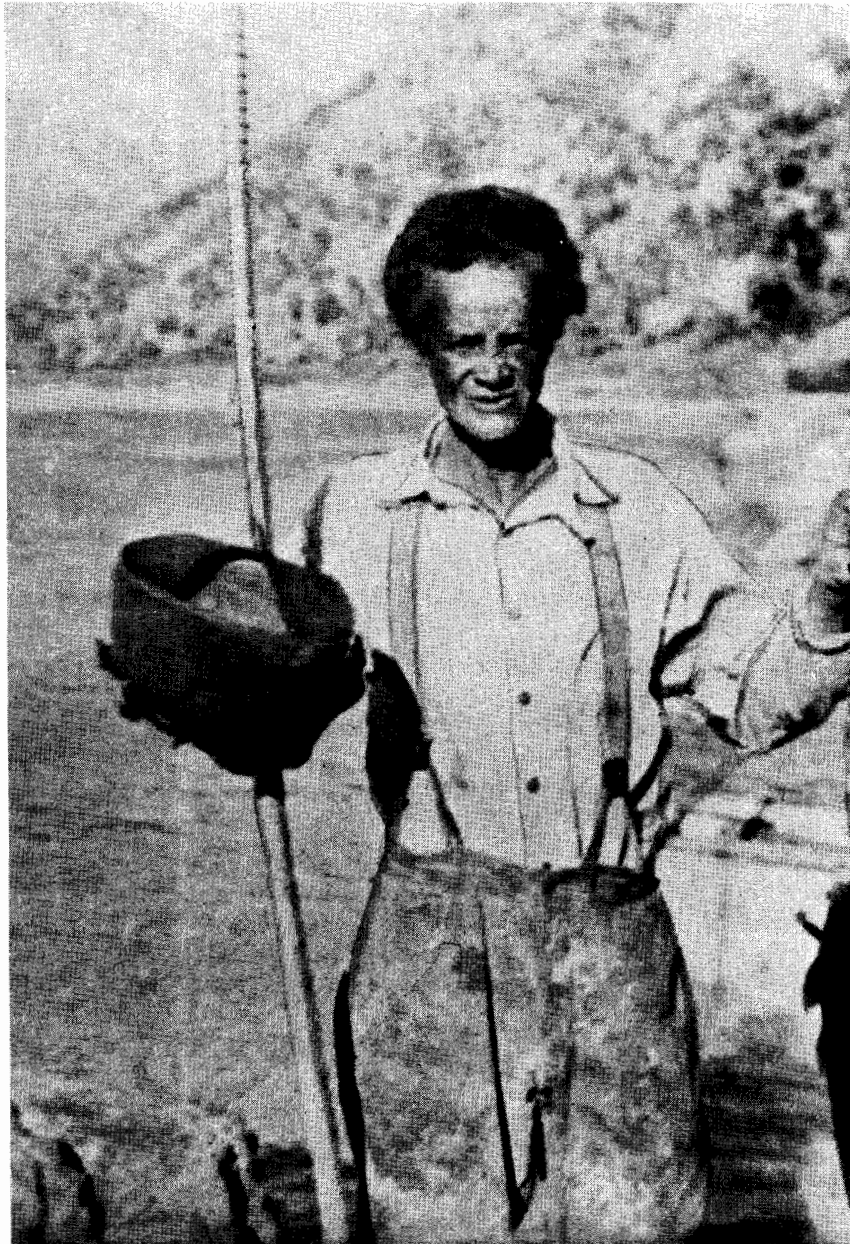


Photo 25. "Speck" Williams often operated the ferry for Jarvie. (Photo Credit: Utah State Historical Society).

1/4 interest in the same claim as well as undivided 1/4 interests in the Sand Carbinet Lode Mining Claim and the Durham Lode Mining Claim for a total of \$17,550. Jarvie, Colton, Collett, and S.M. Browne also located and claimed the Side Issue Lode Mining Claim, the Bromide Number 2, and the Hidden Treasure Lode Mining Claim, all on Douglas Mountain.¹¹⁴

Unfortunately, the mines never paid off and the partners were forced to sell out to the Bromide Mining and Milling Company in 1898 at a tremendous loss. Jarvie was never able to recover from the financial burden which resulted from the mining ventures. In his words: "I had borrowed about \$5,000.00 dollars from the banks in Rock Springs thinking I would make something out of the Bromide at Douglas . . . it did not pan out."¹¹⁵

In spite of his poor luck he continued to prospect in the Brown's Park area until the time of his death, always searching for that elusive strike. Corresponding with his son John, he tells of "sinking holes here and there in search of the vein. And last year I feel sure I discovered it, but I only got down about 15 feet. And it looks ever so much better than anything over at the Bromide." He goes on to say, "I have done quite a lot of development around here I found a fissure on the Apex of the Jetma and drove a tunnel in for 150 ft. but never got into solid vein matter," and "You remember we occasionally found gold, or thought we did, well I think I have found some again" ¹¹⁶

While prospecting in Red Creek Canyon in March of 1903, the strap that held the cinch on his saddle broke and he took a serious fall down a steep cliff-side breaking four ribs. He suffered the pain for a while and finally went

to the doctors in Rock Springs where they wrapped his body with adhesive tape without first shaving his very hairy chest. Returning to the Park, he began to experience a terrible itching and enlisted the service of young Minnie Crouse to help remove it from his body. Minnie recollected the event: "We were pulling it off and it was a terrible thing and I got the giggles. I got around him and though he couldn't see me, he got very mad at me, but we finally got that off. It was torture."¹¹⁷ After the tape was removed, he went into his store and brought out a woman's corset. Minnie helped him get it on and laced it up and he wore that until the ribs had healed.

Livestock Interests

In 1892 John Jarvie and James Scrivner went to Texas to buy sheep.¹¹⁸ Jarvie, however, never got involved in the sheep business. His livestock interests centered around horses and cattle. His cattle herd was never very large. In 1888 he had fifteen head, in 1890 he was down to six. At the time of his death in 1909 he had his largest herd on record: 75 head valued at \$1,500.00.¹¹⁹

He raised only a few horses. In 1888 he had six. In 1890 he had ten and in 1909 he had only two. He did, however, go into business with George Law in Routt County, Colorado, in the 90s and in 1897 they had a herd of 142 horses valued at \$1,456.00.¹²⁰ Jarvie and Law were the largest horse owners in the Colorado end of Brown's Park. The total number of horses was 265 of which well over half belonged to Jarvie and Law. Herb Bassett was second largest horse owner with only thirty. Anton Prestopitz, Isom Dart, and Jim McKnight with twenty, fifteen, and ten horses, respectively, completed the list of the

top five horse owners. Ads appeared in local papers reading, "Anyone wishing to trade land for horses will do well to address John Jarvie and Law, Ladore, Colorado."¹²¹

Jarvie constructed corrals and stables for his livestock. According to Ann Bassett, a prospector by the name of Minor may be buried under the Jarvie corrals.¹²² The structures were partially constructed out of hand hewn railroad ties which would occasionally float down the Green River from the City of Green River in Wyoming. Jarvie and other Brown's Park residents would retrieve them and put them to good use.

Next to the corrals Jarvie built a one-room blacksmith shop of cottonwood logs. He not only did his own blacksmith work, but would occasionally do custom work for his neighbors. Crawford MacKnight remembers that Jarvie was "a damn handsome man, he did damn fine work [for himself] and damn fine custom work, too."¹²³

To irrigate his pasture Jarvie constructed a large waterwheel some sixteen feet in diameter. Buckets on the paddles dropped water into a flume which carried it to a system of ditches.

Land and Business Dealings

Jarvie performed civic duties as an election official in the Brown's Park election district of Uintah County. In 1904 he served along with Charlie Crouse and M. F. Whalen and was compensated \$4.00 for his labors. In 1906 he served with George Kilvington and James Greenhou and received \$3.75. By 1908

he had become the district registration officer and earned \$15.00.¹²⁴

In addition to his original property, Jarvie acquired other land throughout the area in Utah and Colorado. In Utah, Jarvie obtained the old Parsons property by irrigating it as a Desert Entry with the water from Sears Creek beginning in 1887. In 1902 he was granted a patent on the 83.72 acres which he, in turn, sold to Charlie Taylor in 1907 for \$500.00. In 1907 he purchased 27.5 acres of land near Vernal, Utah at a tax sale for \$11.70, the amount owed in back taxes. This piece of property was eventually sold by Jarvie's sons following his death to Thomas Brumback for \$450.00 in 1911.

In Colorado, Jarvie owned roughly 240 acres. He purchased 80 acres from Jane Jaynes (Brown's Park's first school teacher) in 1889 and another 80 acres through a tax sale in 1892. In 1900 he purchased 78 acres (more or less) from Henry Hindle. All of the Colorado property was eventually sold by his heirs for minimal amounts or purchased by redeeming parties through tax sales.¹²⁵

On at least three occasions, Jarvie loaned money in the form of mortgages to his neighbors. The first loan took place October 16, 1886 when Matt Warner mortgaged 124 horses to Jarvie for \$847.90 which was to be repaid by April 16, 1887, at 12% interest per annum. On February 8, 1889, Joseph Toliver mortgaged all of his cattle to Jarvie for \$538.00 which was to be repaid by September 8, 1889, at 12% interest per annum. Finally, Sam Bassett and Thomas Shackett mortgaged property known as the Aalbion Beaty Ranch in Ashley, Utah, to Jarvie on March 7, 1894. The debt was discharged October 2, 1896, at the rate of 10% per annum. Interestingly, the mortgaged property was the same

property Jarvie was to purchase at the tax sale in 1907 for \$11.70.¹²⁶

Although he resided in the Utah side of Brown's Park, Jarvie's dealings and land holdings in the Colorado section placed him on the Routt County tax assessment rolls. The 1897 roll indicates Jarvie's relative position among the Brown's Parkers of Routt County. Out of twenty-eight tax payers, Jarvie (combined amounts assessed John Jarvie, Jarvie and Company, and Jarvie and Law) ranked eleventh in the value of real estate with \$515.00 which was substantially less than J.S. Hoy who topped the list at \$4,850.00 but much closer to Henry Hoy who was second highest with \$993.00 or Herbert Bassett who was ninth with \$615.00. In personal value, Jarvie ranked fifth with \$1696.00 coming in below Herbert Bassett (\$3,402.00), Charlie Sparks (\$2,349.00), Matt Rash (\$2,120.00), and Sam Spicer (\$1,944.00). Jarvie also ranked fifth in total value with \$2,211.00 coming in below J.S. Hoy (\$4,930.00), Herbert Bassett (\$4,017.00), Charlie Sparks (\$2,804.00), and Sam Spicer (\$2,740.00).¹²⁷

Musician, Athlete, Scholar, Head Reader

Jarvie was not all business, however. His personality is revealed through his hobbies and interests. He was something of a gourmet chef, always ordering gourmet items for himself through his store. His specialties were mourning dove pie and his oatmeal.¹²⁸

Jarvie was sometimes known as "Old John" because his hair had turned snow white in his twenties. He tried to grow his hair long once because a New York wig maker was paying for hair a foot long. Although he "was very anxious to do that," he "never could get it long enough."¹²⁹

His hobbies were chess and higher mathematics and phrenology. Minnie Crouse Rasmussen recalled: "He read our heads. He couldn't keep his hands off people's heads. [Through phrenology he could tell] . . . your character, your feelings, and your good standards . . . whatever that skull tells you. He liked to do it."¹³⁰

He not only read skulls, but he was also an avid reader of books. He had a fine library and would often loan books to his neighbors. Jarvie and Herbert Bassett would often sit up until the early hours of the morning discussing the classics around the fireplace at the Bassett ranch.¹³¹

His musical talents were well known in Brown's Park and he was always in demand at social functions where he played the organ and the concertina. He "could play the old fashioned organ (of which there were several in the country at that time) over a hundred pieces of music from memory - Scotch ballads, Irish love songs, patriotic music, and hymns Being a Scotchman, he was always called upon to recite some of Burns poems which he enjoyed so well."¹³²

Because of his Santa Claus appearance and his kindly nature, the children of Brown's Park took a special liking to Jarvie. Ralph Chew recalls: "We kids thought Jarvie was the greatest man alive. He had a long beard and always had candy for the children. We used to love to visit his store."¹³³

Even as he advanced in years, Jarvie was something of an athlete. He was an early day jogger and skater. Jess Taylor remembered that Jarvie could "run

like a deer" and was always trying to engage the local youngsters in footraces. Crawford MacKnight conjures up a strange picture of Jarvie, with flowing white beard, ice skating through Brown's Park on the frozen highway of the Green River (Skating through the Park was not an unusual mode of transportation; children often found it to be the quickest and most convenient route to and from school).¹³⁴

"Pretty Little Nell" died in the Jarvie home of tuberculosis in the arms of Elizabeth Allen circa 1895 when the youngest of the four Jarvie boys was only eight years old. She was buried in Ogden, Utah, where the Barr family was living. From the day of her death until the day of his own, John Jarvie kept his wife's possessions just as she had left them; the clothes hanging, the jewels on the dresser, etc.¹³⁵

Thus John Jarvie became both father and mother to his sons, John Jr., Archie, Tom, and Jimmy, when they were still young boys. In spite of helpful offers from the neighboring Brown's Park women, Jarvie single-handedly took care of his children. Minnie Crouse Rasmussen recollected: "He made their clothes, he had a sewing machine . . . I suppose it was a Singer He even sewed buttons on with that . . . everyone marvelled at it."¹³⁶

On December 1, 1892, Jarvie made the delinquent tax list for Uintah County. His debt was the second highest on the list (\$46.50). He was in good company. The list contained the names of many of Uintah County's most prominent citizens.¹³⁷

In 1901 J.S. Hoy gave a Christmas dance at his ranch. Among the guests were

the Chew bunch, Ann Bassett and her brother Eb, Josie Bassett McKnight, John Jarvie, and Joe and Esther Davenport. Thirteen year old Avvon Chew, one of the many Chew's family children, had a crush on Eb Bassett who had recently returned from Chilicothe College. John Jarvie donated a cigar band which Eb placed on her finger in a solemn ceremony. Avvon was in seventh heaven!¹³⁸

When Jarvie's good friend and neighbor Mary Crouse died in 1904, Jarvie wrote a very warm tribute to her. It contained the following lines: "Here in this world where life and death are equal kings, all should be brave enough to meet what all have met in the common bed of earth patriarchs and babes sleep side by side I should rather live and love where death is king than have eternal life where love is not."¹³⁹

Matt Warner's Masquerade Party

While John Jarvie knew most of the outlaws who frequented Brown's Park, he helped, indirectly, to launch young Matt Warner's life of crime. Matt had heard from Elza Lay that a Jewish merchant was transporting his goods through Brown's Park. He had gone broke in Rock Springs and was making his getaway before the sheriff could attach his merchandise. Matt decided to hold up the merchant and relieve him of his goods since the storekeeper would be in no position to complain to the law.

Having thus acquired the goods, which were mostly items of clothing, Warner hit upon a unique method of distribution. He took them to John Jarvie's store and told him to distribute them from that point and tell everyone to come to a big masquerade dance wearing the "hot" items.

Soon everyone in Brown's Park had heard of Matt's plan and everyone was laughing about it. "It ain't on record either that anybody refused to take the stolen goods. Every last man, woman, child, and dog in the valley . . . came to the dance dressed in them cheap, misfitting clothes."¹⁴⁰

Jarvie had done an excellent job distributing and misfitting the clothing. In Matt Warner's words:

It was the funniest sight I ever saw in my life . . . most of the people persisted in hanging onto parts of their old cowboy and rancher outfits and mixing up clothes dreadfully. The way store clothes and cowboy clothes, celluloid collars and red bandanna handkerchiefs, old busted ten-gallon range hats and cheap derbies, high-heel boots and brogans, Prince Albert coats and chaps, and spurs and guns was mixed up would give you the willies. One old weather-beaten rancher was dressed like a minister, except he had his gun belt and gun on the outside of his long black coat. A cowboy was dressed like a gambler with a bright green vest and high hat, but persisted in wearing his leather chaps, high-heel boots, and spurs. A weather-beaten ranch woman, with a tanned face, and hands like a ditch digger, had on a bridal veil and dress with a long train. A big cowgirl come with a hat on that looked like a flower garden, a cheap gingham dress, and brogans. Everytime someone arrived, there was a lot of hollering and laughing and clapping and stomping, and someone would yell, 'Here comes another Jew!' The lone fiddler scraped his fiddle and stomped time . . . There was so much noise and fun you couldn't hear yourself think. It kept up that-a-way till daylight and everybody was wore out.¹⁴¹

Thus Matt Warner's career as the "Last of the Bandit Riders" was under-way.

Outlaws' Thanksgiving Dinner

On at least one other public occasion Jarvie mingled with the outlaws. He



Photo 26. Matt Warner supplied the costumes for Brown's Park Masquerade Party.

presided over the "Outlaws' Thanksgiving Dinner" ca. 1895. According to "Queen of the Cattle Rustlers," Ann Bassett, it was the only real formal affair ever held in Brown's Park.

It was on that holiday occasion that the outlaws who frequented Brown's Park decided to repay their neighbors for their kindness, generosity, and live-and-let-live policy of co-existence. Billie Bender and Les Megs (leaders of the Bender Gang; agents for smugglers working from Mexico to Canada) along with Butch Cassidy, Elza Lay, Isom Dart, and the Sundance Kid put on a spread that would thereafter be known as the "Outlaws' Thanksgiving Dinner."¹⁴²

The burning question in Brown's Park was what to wear to this elegant affair. The men wore dark suits and vests, stiff starched collars, and bow ties. Mustaches were waxed and curled. The women wore long tight fitted dresses with leg-o-mutton sleeves and high collars. The older ladies wore black taffeta and high button shoes with French heels while the younger girls wore bright colors.

Ann Bassett recalled her attire as being a

silk mull powder blue accordion pleated from top to bottom, camisole and petticoat of taffeta, peterpan collar, buttoned in the back puff sleeves to the elbows . . . The mull pleated well and how it swished over the taffeta undies . . . for the stocking - hold your hat on and smile -- lace made of silk and lisle thread black to match shoes. They were precious and worn only for parties . . . they cost \$3.00 per pair and lasted a long time.¹⁴³

The dinner was held at one of the Davenport ranches on Willow Creek. The best silver, linens, and dishes had been loaned by the Brown's Park ladies and Elizabeth Bassett's silver candelabra graced the table.

Les Megs, Billie Bender, and Elza Lay received the guests at the door and later joined Butch Cassidy and Sundance, dressed in white butcher's aprons, to wait on the tables. Isom Dart, in a tall chef's hat, presided over the kitchen. The group of guests was a very cosmopolitan one. Among the relatively small number, the nations of Scotland, England, Ireland, Australia, Sweden, Yugoslavia, Wales, Mexico, Canada, Italy, and Germany were represented as well as several states.

The evening's program began with the invocation given by John Jarvie. Ada Morgan and Mr. Davenport sang "Then You'll Remember Me" and "Last Rose of Summer" accompanied by Jarvie on the accordion. Josie Bassett played "The Cattle Song" on her zither accompanied by a fiddle and guitar. Ann Bassett gave a short reading on the meaning of Thanksgiving (after having been coached by Jarvie for a couple of weeks).

When the guests were finally seated, Jarvie asked the blessing from his place of honor at the head of the long table and then the meal was served. The menu included blue point oysters, roast turkey with chestnut dressing, giblet gravy, cranberries, mashed potatoes, candied sweet potatoes, creamed peas, celery, olives, pickled walnuts, sweet pickles, fresh tomatoes on crisp lettuce, hot rolls and sweet butter, coffee with whipped cream, and Roquefort cheese. For dessert they had pumpkin pie, plum pudding with brandy sauce,

mints and salted nuts.

Ann Bassett remembered the trouble Butch Cassidy had pouring the coffee:

Poor Butch, he could perform such minor jobs as robbing banks and holding up pay trains without the flicker of an eyelash, but serving coffee at a grand party that was something else. The blood curdling job almost floored him, he became panicky and showed that his nerve was completely shot to bits. He became frustrated and embarrassed over the blunder he had made when some of the other hosts . . . told him it was not good form to pour coffee from a big black coffee pot and reach from left to right across a guests plate, to grab a cup right under their noses. The boys went into a huddle in the kitchen and instructed Butch in the more formal art of filling coffee cups at the table. This just shows how etiquette can put fear into a brave man's heart.¹⁴⁴

The dinner party lasted about six hours after which the group adjourned to the Davenport home for a dance. They danced until the sun came up the next day!

In a letter describing the placement of guests at the dinner, Ann Bassett had this to say:

Mr. Jarvie should be given the place of honor for he was a darling. He was jolly and gay and everyone young and old loved him. His tragic death cast a deep gloom over the entire country from Vernal to Rock Springs. He was one of the truly great characters that ever lived in the park. Next to my father I think he was the person near perfect.¹⁴⁵

"Jerked to Glory"

An event took place in Brown's Park in 1898 which had a lasting effect upon the outlaw population there. Although it did not take place on the Jarvie ranch, there are a several direct ties with the property. Speck Williams was operating Jarvie's ferry when a prospector by the name of Strang asked him to

look after his young son, Willie, while he went to town for supplies. Willie soon grew bored on the river and took off with a fellow by the name of Pat Johnson who was living at the Valentine Hoy ranch on upper Red Creek.

Willie spent a night at the Hoy ranch in the company of Pat Johnson, "Judge" Bennett (who had constructed the stone house at the Jarvie place), Charley Teeters, and Bill Pigeon. Throughout the night the men drank and joked with each other. Early the next morning, in the same spirit, seventeen year old Willie played a joke on Johnson. He either pulled a chair from under him as he was sitting down, kicked him in the seat of the pants, or splashed him with water from a dipper.¹⁴⁶ Johnson was not in the same jocular mood he had been the night previously and as young Willie ran outside to feed his stock in the stables, Johnson drew his revolver and fired at the boy. The bullet lodged in his spine and he fell to the ground. Mr. and Mrs. Blair, Hoy's in-laws, heard the shot from their upstairs room. Mr. Blair rushed to the window and "saw the young man stretched out in the snow Immediately after the report of the pistol he heard the words 'Oh, God! Oh, God!'"¹⁴⁷ Willie soon died and Bennett and Johnson immediately left for Powder Springs on horses belonging to Hoy.¹⁴⁸ At Powder Springs, Bennett and Johnson met Dave Lant and Harry Tracy, recent escapees from the Utah penitentiary.¹⁴⁹ The quartet decided to head for Robbers' Roost. Bennett went for supplies and arranged to meet the others near Douglas Mountain.

Meanwhile, Sheriff Neiman and Deputy Ethan Allen Farnham of Routt County, Colorado, arrived in Brown's Park. They had come to arrest Bennett and Johnson for illegal activities which had taken place in Colorado. Learning of the Strang killing, they quickly formed a posse of Brown's Park men including Eb



Photo 27. Dave Lant. (Photo Credit: Utah State Historical Society).

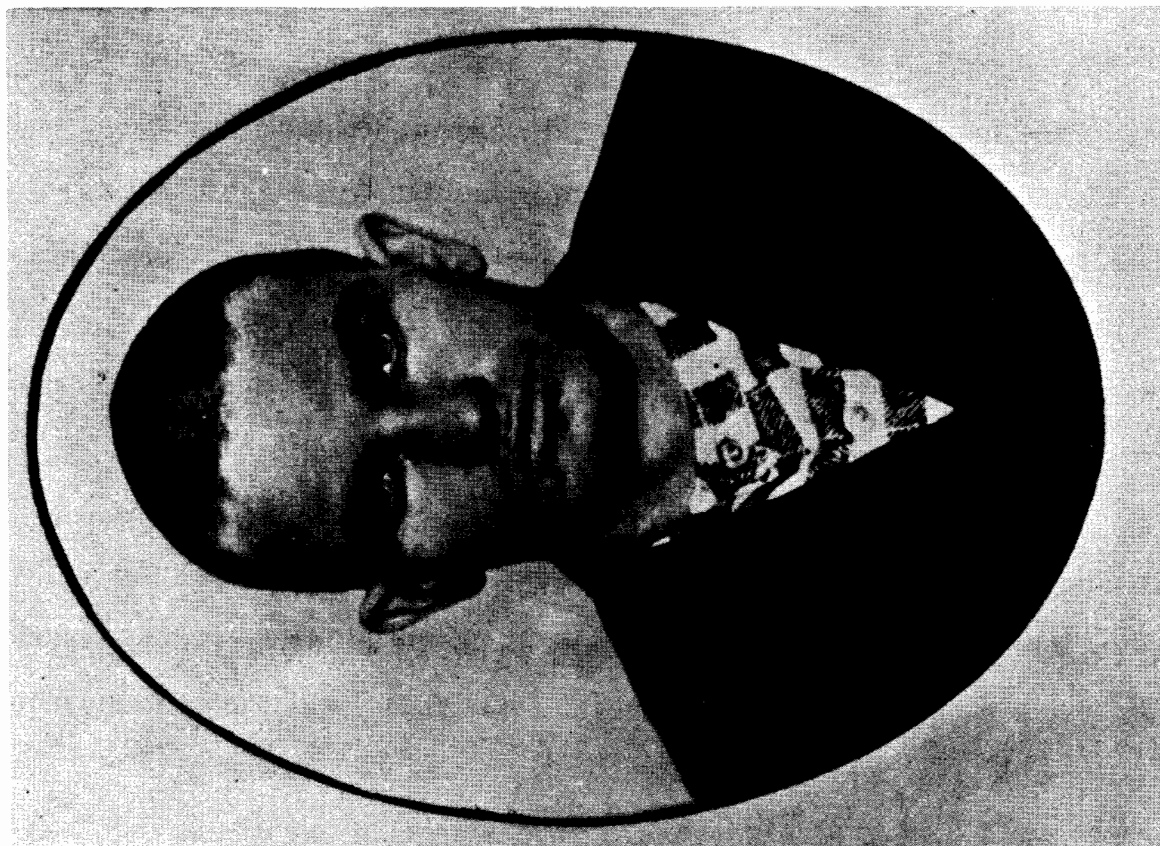


Photo 28. Harry Tracy. (Photo Credit: Utah State Historical Society).

Bassett, Valentine Hoy, Jim McKnight, Joe Davenport, Longhorn Thompson, and Bill Pigeon and the manhunt was on.¹⁵⁰ The posse found the fugitives' camp. Horses, blankets, and food had been left behind indicating a hasty departure. Sheriff Neiman reasoned that the outlaws would not last long without any supplies during the freezing March night. So the posse gathered up the abandoned gear and headed to the Bassett ranch for the evening.

The following day the posse again approached the trapped outlaws. Valentine Hoy was in the lead. Suddenly "the report of a rifle fractured the frosty air. Shot through the heart, Hoy slumped to the ground. Within seconds, the snow surrounding his body was crimson. Death was instantaneous."¹⁵¹ Unfortunately for Bennett, he had selected this moment to arrive on the scene with the supplies for the trip south. He dismounted, fed his horse some oats, walked to a knoll, and "discharged his six shooter three times, waited a few moments as if for an answer to his signal and fired his rifle once."¹⁵² Instead of the Powder Springs gang which he had hoped to meet, he was captured by Eb Bassett and Boyd Vaughn, taken to the Bassett ranch, and put under guard by Deputy Farnham.

The next day, after the posse had left to retrieve Hoy's body, Josie Bassett McKnight's small son, Crawford, cried out, "Mommy, look at the funny men!" A small party of seven men with hastily manufactured masks had ridden up to the ranch. "Josie remembered one man masked in the sleeve of a slicker with eye holes cut out."¹⁵³

The vigilantes found Farnham and Bennett and demanded obedience of the officer. "Leaving one man to guard the under sheriff, the remainder took

Bennett in the yard He weakened when the mob took him and begged piteously for his life, promising to divulge everything."¹⁵⁴

Bennett was taken to the corral where the posts framing the gate reached a height of about twelve feet tied together at the top by a cross member consisting of a substantial pine pole. "They stood him up in a springboard buggy, put the noose around his neck and when they were already, pulled the wagon out from under him and let him hang."¹⁵⁵ "The drop was too short to break Bennett's neck and for three or four minutes he danced a lively jig in midair, gyrating and pirouetting grotesquely. Then . . . there was one less trouble-maker in Brown's Park."¹⁵⁶

Sometime later, a poem was found in Bennett's pocket. It had been written by fellow outlaw Lant describing his escape from the Utah penitentiary.

We left the Salt Lake pen
 As the sun was setting low;
And walked along the railroad track
 Until our legs refused to go.
But we reached Park City early.
 Where the morning sunbeams lit
On our striped pantaloons,
 Where a happy party sit.
Its there we took to refuge,
And watched the brave policemen,
 While around us they did tear.
Its there we ate our lunches,
 And our weary limbs did rest;
Until the sun was sinking
 In the far and distant west.
When we started on our journey.
 For our home we call the wall;
Where very few detectives
 E'er dare to make their call.¹⁵⁷

The killing of Hoy brought men from three states pouring into Brown's Park to

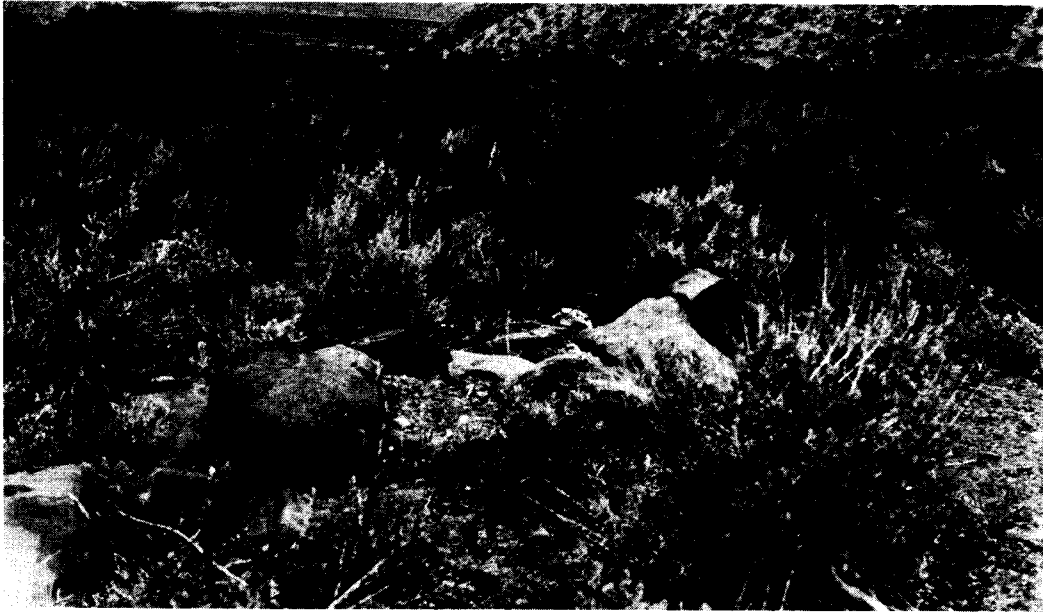


Photo 29. Grave of "Judge" Bennett, victim of Brown's Park only lynching. (Photo Credit: Utah State Historical Society).

join the manhunt. The Colorado group was led by Neiman and Farnham. The posse from Vernal, Utah, was under the direction of Sheriff Preece while the men from Sweetwater County, Wyoming, followed Deputy Sheriffs Peter Swanson and William Laney.¹⁵⁸ Excitement ran high and a Rock Springs paper forecast "there is no doubt that the murderers will be shot or lynched as soon as captured."¹⁵⁹

It did not take long, however, for the freezing, starving outlaws to give themselves up. Their feet were bare and bloody. They had had to kill a colt for food. "Johnstone was the first to throw his hands up then Lant did likewise, but Tracey made him pull them down again under a threat of killing him right there. Shortly afterward, however, both gave themselves up."¹⁶⁰

A hearing was conducted by Justice J.S. Hoy, brother of murdered Valentine, in the Bassett living room. Johnson was taken to Rock Springs and Tracy and Lant were taken to the Routt County jail at Hahn's Peak. With the outlaws safely behind bars, the governors of the three states met in Salt Lake City to congratulate themselves for the joint effort at law enforcement and to formulate plans for future action against other outlaw gangs. During the conference, a message from the outlaws in the Brown's Park area was delivered to the governors which, as Governor Adams put it, "intimated they were ready for us and we could not surprise them."¹⁶¹

J.S. Hoy wrote a letter of thanks to the people of Uintah County who helped so courageously to capture the murderers. He felt, however, that they would probably soon escape again or be given very light sentences and soon be out among society to commit more crimes.¹⁶² Living up to Hoy's expectations,

Lant and Tracy surprised Sheriff Neiman in the Hahn's Peak jail, beat him into insensibility, robbed him, and fled. They were recaptured after a few hours of freedom.

Certain Routt County citizens, fearing the cost of an extensive trial in their county, urged that Lant and Tracy be sent back to Utah to finish their prison terms before the trial was held. However, popular sentiment favored a Routt County trial. The prisoners were, however, moved from Hahn's Peak to the jail in Aspen since the cost of their "lodging" there was only two dollars per day instead of the \$3.50 to \$4 per day at Hahn's Peak.¹⁶³ They eventually pulled the same trick on the jailer in Aspen and escaped from that prison.

Johnson was tried for the murder of Willie Strang and was freed by the jury. Tried as an accomplice to the Hoy murder, he was sentenced to ten years, served two, and was released. Lant "enlisted and received a citation for bravery in the Philippines." Tracy "blazed a trail of robberies and murders across the Northwest, killed three guards in a prison break in Oregon, and finally put a bullet through his own head rather than give up."¹⁶⁴

Letters to Sons

The best insight into John Jarvie's personality and attitudes can be found in his own words in letters which he wrote to his sons after they left home. From a letter to John Jarvie, Jr., May 28, 1902:

I am well, also individually alone. The boys appearingly have all made a mistake when they chose me for their father. And each and every one, as soon as they were able, or thought they were able to be a father to

themselves have left, and I candidly believe that all left with the idea that I was unfit to be father to them. Perhaps they are right, I admit I was hard to please, and wanted to see everything done away ahead of what the average boy could do. I sure had a strong desire to see my children excel in everything that was good and clever, and while everything has been backwards with me since I entered into the mining or prospecting business, yet not anything has hurt me mentally like my boys all repudiating my right to boss, or that I was capable of directing them. Yet I still think, that it will all come out for the best.¹⁶⁵

He mirrors these same sentiments in a letter to Tom:

I must say it was a hard blow to me when you all left, and hurt me more than ever I said, but for all that, it would have pleased me very much to have seen you all doing well, behaving yourselves as gentlemen, and getting ahead in the world I do not think any of you boys realized my position when you left . . . I wanted to save all I could to pay up my debts. And I did not want to lay out money on anything I thought we could get along without, and possibly you boys thought it was just my disagreeable way, and that I was not treating you exactly right when really it was for your sakes I invested what money I had . . . thinking that in a short time I would be able to send you all to some first class school and so give you a good education¹⁶⁶

Realizing that his interests in Brown's Park were too much for a lone, aging person to handle, he attempted to persuade his sons to return. To Tom he writes: "I really need someone to help me, but I expect it will have to be some one else than any of my boys, and it must be that I deserve it If ever you feel like coming home, I promise to do the best I can by you."¹⁶⁷

To John he writes: "I offered Archie a half interest in the cattle and their increase if he would come and look after them for two years, but he would not . . ." and "if ever you feel like it, will be pleased to see the son (and the sons) and the father united more closely than ever."¹⁶⁸

His values are reflected in the advice he offers to his son Tom. "I sincerely hope you will use every opportunity presented you to learn, learn everything that comes before you, it is always of use even when you think differently . .

I think you will be a good man . . . learn also to be a useful man. Then all will be well."¹⁶⁹

He offers John, Jr., these thoughts on his twenty first birthday:

My how time passes. You . . . have been enjoying a man's estate for a long time past and I do not think I need say a word in regard to advice or council to you at all, even should you care to take it. Your habits are getting pretty well fixed and are part and parcel of your character, your individuality. And I do not think any one will be able to accuse you of lacking in veracity, or integrity, or efficiency and that is sure a fair start in life for you . . . I think you will be pretty hard to beat as an all around efficient man for almost anything; be sure and endeavor not to go to extremes in anything . . . Yours with the best wishes and love that is in me.
John Jarvie.¹⁷⁰

"Foul Murder in Brown's Park"

John Jarvie's ranch was somewhat of a way station for pioneer travelers. Esther Campbell believed that "He kept people overnight quite often who would come here to cross the ferry and couldn't go on . . . this place was the stopping place between Vernal and Ft. Bridger."¹⁷¹ It was probably in this manner that he first met George Hood in 1908. "During the winter Mr. Jarvie had given a man named Hood lodgings and food (some wages) to help around the store. Hood [was] not worth much but Jarvie had befriended him."¹⁷² Hood was a sheepman who had herded sheep in the area during the summer of 1908.¹⁷³ "When Hood worked for Kendall and Whelan . . . he had been in the habit of visiting the Jarvie ranch and had on two occasions stopped overnight."¹⁷⁴

Hood and a partner of his are thought to have stolen some horses from the Cary ranch near Hayden, Colorado, early in the summer of 1909.¹⁷⁵ That same summer Hood arrived at Speck's place with word that Whelan, who had rented out a band of blackface bucks to Williams, wanted the bucks moved to Red Creek. The agreeable Speck gave the bucks to Hood who then drove the whole band to Rock Springs where he sold them and went on a wild spree. Speck Williams did not have much admiration for Hood's cowboy ability. He said that Hood "always broke his horses tied to a tree."¹⁷⁶

In spite of his financial reverses, the rumor persisted that Jarvie had large amounts of money in his store safe or concealed on his property. One story tells of a man by the name of Jim Nicholls who stopped at Jarvie's store for some whiskey. While Jarvie was in the basement procuring the liquid refreshment, Nicholls decided to help himself to a cigar from a box in the store. Opening the box he was surprised to find it, not full of cigars, but full of gold coins. Whether his story is factual or not, Nicholls believed it, and in later years he came to the Jarvie place with a metal detector searching for the buried treasure.¹⁷⁷

Saturday, July 3, 1909: William King, a sheepman, met Hood and his partner, who has been identified as Bill McKinley, Hood's brother-in-law,¹⁷⁸ in Rock Springs. They told King that they were heading into Brown's Park to look for a job herding sheep.¹⁷⁹

Sunday, July 4, 1909: Hood and McKinley left Rock Springs on foot for Brown's Park. Enroute they met cowboy Charlie Teeters on his way to Rock Springs by

wagon. He recalled that they were evasive about their future plans and that they were both "dressed in shoes, and gray pants and shirts."¹⁸⁰

Tuesday, July 6, 1909: The pair reached the Jarvie ranch. John Jarvie was alone, his sons having all left home to work on other ranches in the vicinity. It was dinner time and Jarvie, displaying his usual hospitality, set out two extra plates for his guests. The dinner was never eaten. The visitors took Jarvie into the store and forced him to open the small safe.¹⁸¹ The safe was nearly empty because Jarvie had recently been to Rock Springs to pay up his annual accounts there. It contained only a one hundred dollar bill and a pearl handled revolver.¹⁸²

A brief struggle ensued and the old man pulled free of his captors and fled the store. He made it as far as the small bridge which crossed his irrigation ditch where his life was ended by two bullets from behind.¹⁸³ One bullet entered his back between the shoulder blades, another entered his brain.¹⁸⁴ The killers grabbed their victim by the heels and dragged his body from the bridge, around the stone house, and down to the river bank where a boat was tied, leaving behind a trail of blood and patches of his long white hair which snagged on obstacles along the path.¹⁸⁵ They tied the body into the boat with a length of clothesline which they had gotten from the store and then pushed the boat into the river with one of the teepee poles Jarvie had kept on hand.¹⁸⁶ Their obvious hope was that the boat would be destroyed in the rapids downstream as it passed through the Gates of Lodore and wipe out all evidence of their crime.

The killers then turned their attentions to the store. They ransacked it and



Photo 30. The Jarvie safe which yielded only a one-hundred dollar bill.
(Photo Credit: Glade Ross Collection).

carried out as much as two men could manage. Their loot included "flour, canned goods, coffee, rope, hoppers [hobbles], shoes, underwear, shirts, [and] gloves"¹⁸⁷ which they loaded onto Jarvie's horse along with Jarvie's saddle and a saddle belonging to Speck Williams.¹⁸⁸ As they were packing up a new pair of hobbles, they noticed that the death boat had drifted into an eddy a short distance from the store. They laid the hobbles down on a log, forgetting them, and shoved the boat back into the current and it started its voyage a second time.

The two men, on foot, and the heavily burdened horse left the Jarvie ranch and followed the river about one mile southeast to the nearest ranch, the Kings'. They had hoped to steal additional horses there but found none. They then cut the ropes binding the pack onto the horse, both mounted it, and left behind their pile of plunder.

During their evening's work, the killers' clothing had become soaked with blood. They removed them, hid them in some bushes as they headed up Jesse Ewing Canyon, and donned new clothing taken from the store.¹⁸⁹

They passed a ranch about twelve miles out and "the man there said that about daylight his dogs barked and upon looking out he saw two men on one horse at the lower end of his field, and as soon as he went out of the house, they went on around the fence and headed north."¹⁹⁰

The stolen horse had been so heavily loaded and ridden so hard that it finally either died or collapsed from exhaustion and the killers continued their getaway on foot.¹⁹¹

Wednesday, July 7, 1909: Charlie Teeters, now on his way back to Brown's Park from Rock Springs, again met the two men on the trail. He later recalled that "They had on new boots, new shirts, and pants" and they said "they were going to Rock Springs for work."¹⁹² Teeters, of course, was not aware of the murder at that time.

About sixteen miles from Rock Springs, the pair met William King and "in a short conversation with them, they said they had been out to the first ranches, but took a notion to go back to the railroad and get work. It was not until the next day, Thursday, that he arrived at home and learned of the murder."¹⁹³ Thus, ironically, the killers has passed two Brown's Parkers who could have helped to apprehend them, but neither knew of the murder.

The crime was finally discovered when one of the Jarvie boys, either John Jr. or young Jimmy, or possibly Johnny Law, stopped by the ranch and discovered the store in shambles and the bloody trail leading to the river.¹⁹⁴

The alarm was quickly spread and the search for the killers was begun. Neighbors immediately took boats and began to patrol the river for signs of the missing skiff and the old man's body.¹⁹⁵ Ann Bassett was at Mandy Lombard's place on Willow Creek when a messenger with the grim news dashed through on his way to alert Tom Jarvie who was with a cattle drive on the way to Maybell, Colorado. Ann and Mandy hurried to the Jarvie place where they saw that the chores for the night before had been done and "places for 3 set on the table Further searching showed where Mr. Jarvie's body had rested in wet sand along the river bank. Even the depressions from the rivets

on his pants showed up" and where the "hole in the back of his head [had] rested."¹⁹⁶

The alerted neighbors scoured the area and soon found the new pair of hobbles which the killers had placed on the log next to the eddy when they pushed the boat into the river the second time. In the afternoon, one of the Jarvie sons hurriedly left to notify the officials in Rock Springs.

Thursday, July 8, 1909: The murderers reached Rock Springs, tired and dusty, about one o'clock in the morning and checked into a rooming house.

One of them left a call for seven o'clock in the morning; the other was heard to get up about 10 o'clock. The latter had inquired about the first train east and had been told it would pass through about 11 o'clock. John Jarvie, Jr., had reached Rock Springs at about 10 o'clock that morning to give the alarm; but it took an hour or so before he could get hold of the officers, and in the meantime, the two fellows had gotten away.¹⁹⁷

Shortly thereafter, one of the murderers asked storekeeper George Lohman in Point of Rocks, east of Rock Springs, to change a hundred dollar bill.¹⁹⁸

Minnie Crouse, who was homesteading at Minnie's Gap, had not heard about the murder. She rode into Brown's Park to return a book that John Jarvie had loaned her. She found the Jarvie place quiet and deserted when she arrived but saw that "something had gone wrong I saw where they had had the row on the little bridge . . . his long white hair was caught on many things and I walked around the rock house to the boat They must have had him by the heels, just dragged him that way . . . you could see plainly where they dragged [him]."¹⁹⁹

News of the deed reached Vernal on this day via a telegram sent from Rock Springs which had to be wired from Rock Springs to Ogden to Salt Lake City to Mack, Colorado, and finally to Vernal. It simply read "John Jarvie murdered at Bridgeport. Body adrift in boat. Two young men suspected. Heading this way, sheriff here notified."²⁰⁰ Sheriff Richard Pope of Uintah County left immediately in the night on horseback for the scene of the crime.

Once in Brown's Park, he thoroughly investigated the area. He and Josie Bassett and one other found the tracks of the killers and trailed them to the spot where they had abandoned their plunder near the King ranch. From a distance Josie thought the piles of goods resembled two men sitting down and leaning over.²⁰¹ They continued to follow the tracks up Jesse Ewing Canyon where they discovered the bloody clothes abandoned in the bushes. Pope did not, however, continue on to Rock Springs, assuming the officials there were, by now, doing all they could to apprehend the killers. Before leaving Brown's Park he was informed that Jarvie's horse had been found where the killers had left it and he had the following notice printed and distributed:

WANTED -- Two young men for the murder of John Jarvie, at Bridgeport, Utah, on July 6th, 1909. George Hood, height about 5 ft. 6 or 7 in., weight 150 or 160 lbs. sallow complexion, heavy eyebrow, brownish hair, has blue gray eyes that look peculiar, high and wide cheek bones and face tapers to point of chin, upper lip thin and lower lip and chin protrudes, has tatoo on back of hand and runs up the arm, age about 27. His partner 5 ft. 7 in. light complected, thin weight 140 lbs. light clothes, pants are corduroy or Kakie, 6 or 6 1/2 shoe. Both were smooth shaved and wore curved pointed shoes.²⁰²

A young man named Joe Nelson was walking from Lander, Wyoming to Utah and was arrested and imprisoned in Rock Springs because he fit the description of one

of the killers. George Lohman, of Point of Rocks, visited the prison and he immediately declared that Nelson was not the man who had asked to change the one hundred dollar bill and Nelson was released.²⁰³

Friday, July 9, 1909: Two more men were arrested in Rawlins, Wyoming, but they were not the wanted men either.²⁰⁴

Thursday, July 14, 1909: John Jarvie's body was finally found by his son, Archie.²⁰⁵ The boat in which it was tied had become caught in some willows about twenty-five miles from where it had been sent down the river not far from the entrance to the Gates of Lodore. One account says the boat was found upside down with the body still tied into it²⁰⁶ while another says the body had fallen from the overturned boat and the clothing had caught in the brush as it drifted toward shore.²⁰⁷ Crawford MacKnight was among the crowd of fifteen to twenty people who had gathered on the shore to witness the recovery of the body.²⁰⁸ The corpse was badly disfigured. "The body was so swollen they couldn't get it into the box they had made for him."²⁰⁹ Herb Bassett had them wrap it in a tarp and a big box was constructed at the nearby Bassett ranch.²¹⁰ He was buried in the Lodore Cemetery not far from where the body was discovered.

By August 11, the posse that had been pursuing the murderers had given up the search²¹¹ and although a \$1,000 reward was offered (\$500 from Governor Cutler of Utah and \$500 from the people of Rock Springs²¹²) the killers had escaped.

Young Jimmy Jarvie kept up the search and relentlessly stuck to the killers'

trail. He sent at least one dispatch enroute from Kemmerer, Wyoming, having traced the murderers to that point.²¹³ He eventually arrived in an Idaho town (either Montpelier²¹⁴ or Pocatello²¹⁵) to which he had tracked them. He retired to a room in a hotel there. Anxious to rid themselves of this tireless pursuer, his father's murderers stole into his room and shoved him from the second floor window. He landed on his head and was killed instantly.²¹⁶

A postscript to the story comes from George Stephens, who had been Under Sheriff of Daggett County for many years. In 1935 while riding on a train from Denver to Green River, he sat next to an Italian man and they began to discuss the history of the area. The Italian informed Stephens that he worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad in Sparks, Nevada, where a co-worker had boasted for years that he had committed a murder and a robbery in Brown's Park and had never been apprehended.

Stephens began to investigate the story and, working with Nevada officials, came to the conclusion that the boastful railroad worker in Sparks was probably, indeed, one of Jarvie's killers. Stephens approached Tom Jarvie, the only Jarvie son still living in the area at that time, but Tom was convinced that it would be useless to pursue the matter further and the investigation came to a halt.²¹⁷

A glowing tribute to John Jarvie appeared on the front page of the Vernal Express July 30, 1909, which included the following:

It is hard to imagine John Jarvie dead. Harder still to think of him murdered. He was the sage of the Uintahs,

the genius of Brown's Park. He could almost be called the wizzard of the hills and river. He was not only a man among men but he was a friend among men

He kept a ferry; but he was more than a ferryman; he kept a store, but he was not circumscribed by the small scope of a storekeeper.

He was as broad and generous as far reaching in his good deeds as the stream which he knew and loved as a brother and over whose turbulent waters he had helped so many travelers and upon whose unwilling bosom he was set adrift to seek an unknown grave

The tribute draws upon Jarvie's own words for a conclusion; words from the tribute that Jarvie had made to his long time friend, Mrs. Mary Crouse, when she died in 1904:

Here in this world where life and death are equal kings, all should be brave enough to meet what all have met--from the wondrous tree of life the buds and blossoms fall with ripened fruit and in the common bed of earth patriarchs and babes sleep side by side.

It may be that death gives all there is of worth to life. If those who press and strain against our hearts could never die perhaps that love would wither from the earth. Maybe a common faith treads from out the paths between our hearts the weeds of selfishness and I should rather live and love where death is king than have eternal life where love is not. Another life is naught unless we know and love again the ones who love us here.

The largest and nobler faith in all that is and is to be, tells us that death even at its worst is only perfect rest--we have no fear; we all are children of the same mother and the same fate awaits us all. We, too, have our religion and it is this: 'Help for the living, Hope for the dead'.

"Those words spoken by Mr. Jarvie not only give an idea of his own nature but they are especially appropriate in his own sad ending. May his body rest in

place near the Green River and in the pleasant vale between the hills, where history will be incomplete without the last thirty years of the life story of John Jarvie."²¹⁸

CHAPTER IV

SITE INVENTORY

The land upon which John Jarvie settled was never homesteaded. He merely chose a suitable spot along the Green River and squatted upon it. The property (Lot 3, Section 23, Township 2N, Range 24E) was not even granted to the State of Utah by the United States of America until 1907. In 1916 the State of Utah granted a patent to the Jarvie heirs and the land which their father had lived and died on legally became theirs.²¹⁹

Tom Jarvie and John Jarvie, Jr. lived on the property off and on for several years; however, their major interests lay elsewhere and the property was generally neglected until 1924 when it was sold to Charles L. Sparks. Ten years later, following Charles's death, the Sparks heirs sold the property to Frank E. Jenkins. The Jenkins family resided on the ranch until 1942 making substantial changes to the site during their occupancy.

In 1942 local rancher William Allen purchased the property. Allen's wife, Marie Taylor Allen, was a descendant of an early Brown's Park family. Her father, Charlie Taylor, and older brother, Jess, had freighted for Jarvie in the early part of the century and were among the first to arrive at the ranch following the murder. Mrs. Allen was a respected local historian and helped to preserve much of Brown's Park's colorful history. In 1968 the Allens sold the ranch to Duward and Esther Campbell and moved a mile downstream to another ranch where Marie Allen is now buried.

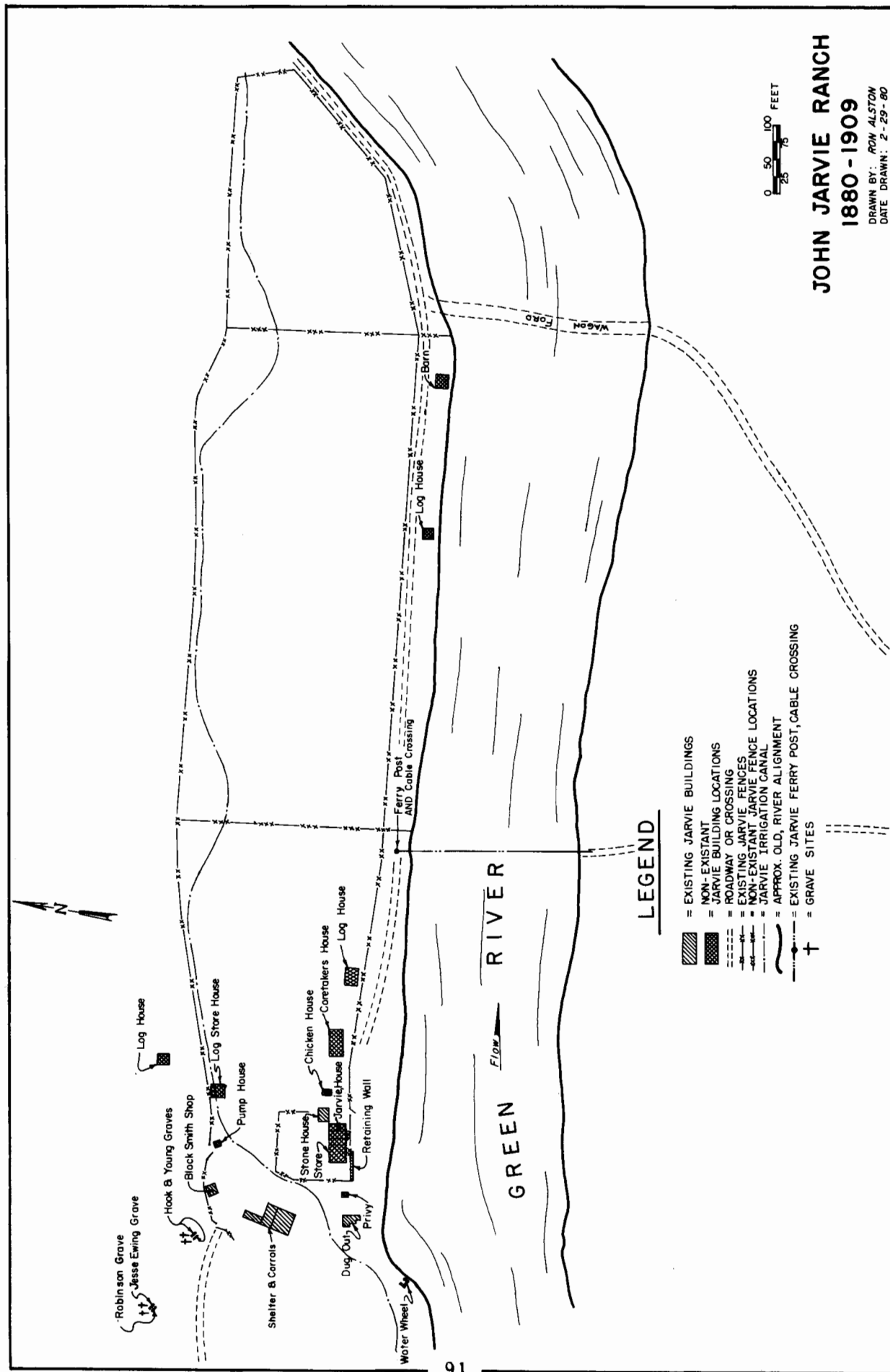


Figure 1.

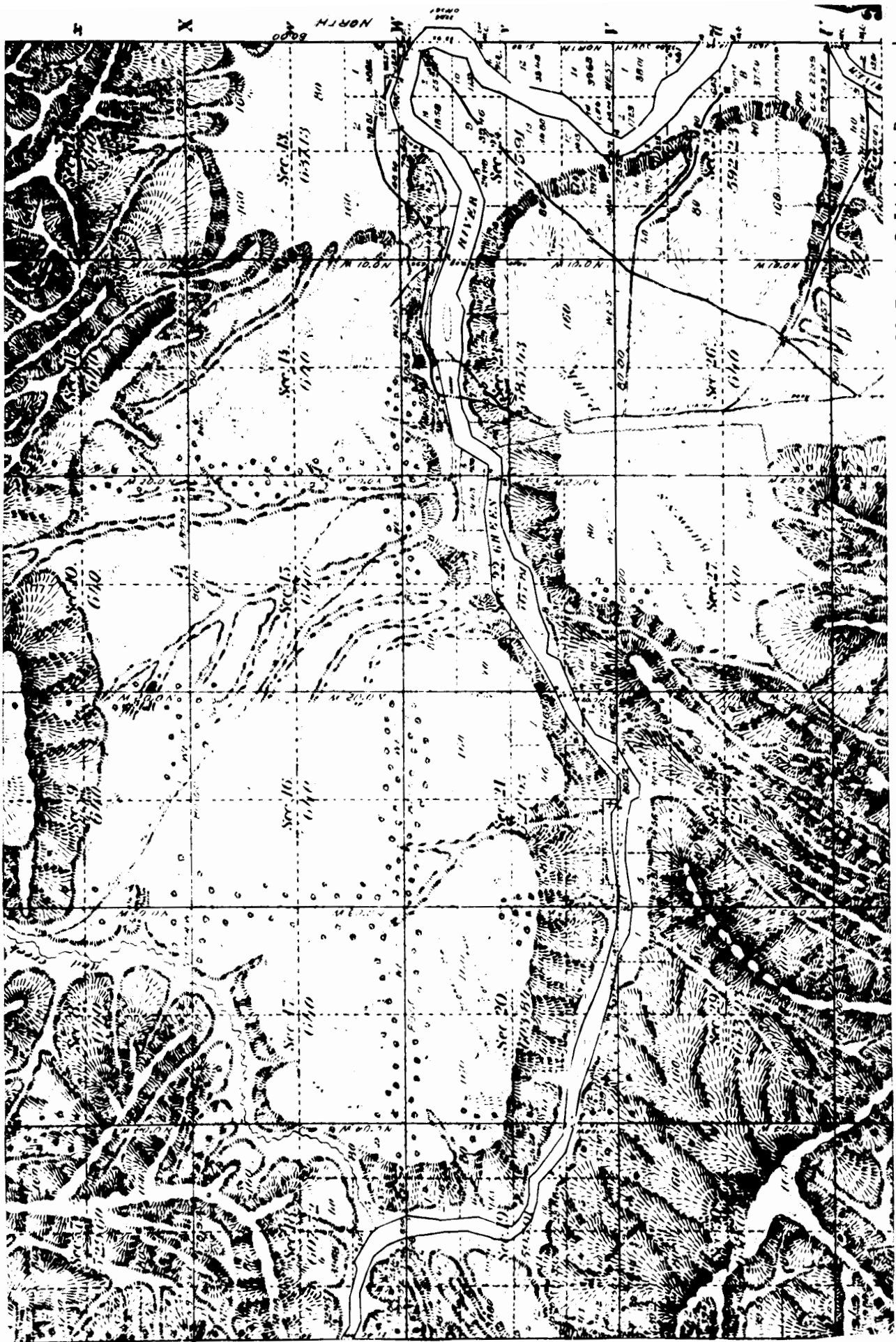


Figure 2. June 10, 1899, General Land Office survey plat of Township 2 North, Range 24 East, Salt Lake Base and Meridian showing Jarvie Ranch in Section 23.

The Campbells had lived most of their lives in the Brown's Park area where Esther is well known as the "school marm" who taught in the area's one-room schoolhouses. Esther collected Brown's Park history and memorabilia (much of it from her good friend Ann Bassett) and turned the old stone house into a museum. Esther became a local "institution" and is much loved by hundreds of fishermen, campers, hunters, history buffs, and tourists who make yearly pilgrimages to the Jarvie Ranch. Following Duward's death, Esther was anxious to see the ranch preserved and restored to its historic character. Spurning lucrative offers from commercial developers, she sought out the Bureau of Land Management as a potential buyer.

Funding was not available for a timely purchase by the Bureau in 1977 when the property was first placed on the market. The Bureau contacted Nature Conservancy which agreed to assist in the acquisition. Consequently, in 1978, Mrs. Campbell sold the property to Nature Conservancy. In turn, Nature Conservancy leased the property to the Bureau. The Vernal District of the Bureau of Land Management has assumed management of the ranch and will purchase the property when funding is available.

The 35.38 acres of land known as the Jarvie Ranch contain a wealth of structures, remnants, and sites of interest. These items fall into four major categories: existing Jarvie structures and objects, non-existing Jarvie structures and objects, existing post-Jarvie structures and objects, and non-existing post-Jarvie structures and objects.

First, there are many significant Jarvie era structures and objects on the property. The oldest of the historic buildings is the dugout on the



Photo 31. Charlie Sparks, purchased the Jarvie property in 1924. (Photo Credit: Glade Ross Collection).



Photo 32. Esther Campbell, owner of the Jarvie property from 1968 until 1978. (Photo Credit: Bureau of Land Management).

southwestern end of the property where John and Nellie first lived in Brown's Park and where outlaws later gathered. It is built into a hillside with the south-facing entrance overlooking the Green River.

The dugout is a two-room structure. A small 4' x 3' entry leads to the front (south) room which measures 13' x 12'. The dugout features a door on the front room made of a single piece of tree trunk and split cedar roof poles. The larger back (north) room is 19' x 12'. The roof of the front room slants upward shed-style toward the north while that of the back room is low gabled featuring a ridge log approximately 20" in diameter. The walls are of stone and log (hewn and whipsawed). The floors are dirt and the elevation of the back room floor is approximately one foot higher than that of the front room. A retaining wall made of stone, rail ties, and split logs fronts the dugout. The dugout remains in fairly good condition.

East of the dugout is the single-story stone house built by outlaw Jack Bennett. The building is a one-room rectangle measuring 18' x 20' with a gabled roof constructed of log rafters and sawn lumber planking. The single entry door faces south and the single four-over-four window faces east. The building currently houses Esther Campbell's collection of Brown's Park memorabilia including bottles, furniture, pictures, and items that once belonged to Ann Bassett, "Queen of the Cattle Rustlers." The hanging post where Jack Bennett was lynched, ironically, is now displayed in the house that he built.

In the 1930s a 15' x 18' two-room frame addition was added to the west side of the stone house by Frank Jenkins. A small 10' x 18' screened frame porch was

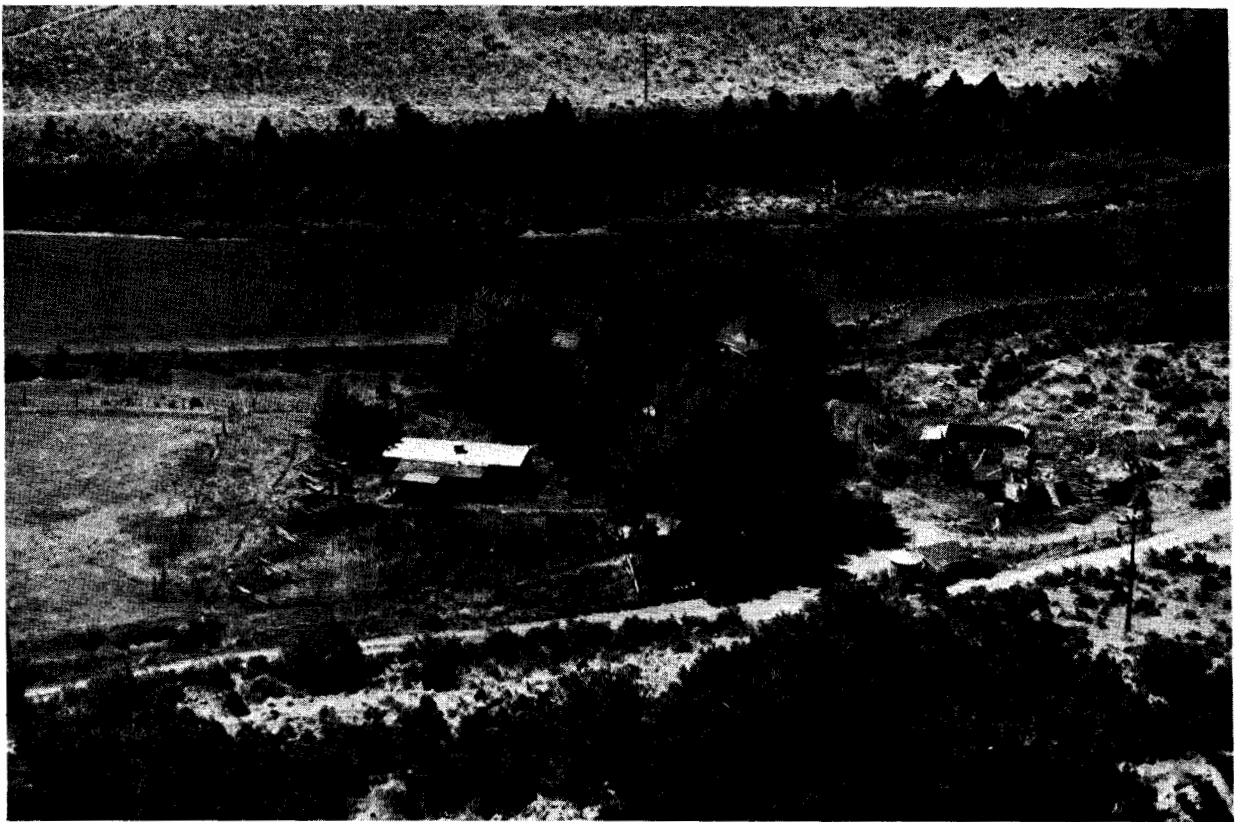


Photo 33. View of the Jarvie property in 1978. (Photo Credit: Bureau of Land Management).



Photo 34. Dugout entrance in 1978. (Photo Credit: Bureau of Land Management).

constructed on the west side of the addition by Duward Campbell in the 1960s.

Northwest of the stone house is the Jarvie corral and stable complex constructed, partially, of the rail ties that Jarvie and young Jess Taylor fished out of the river. The entire complex runs roughly north to south for 120 feet. It is divided into three sections: two corrals and an open-faced stable. All three sections extend eastward from a common seven-foot-high wall built into a gently sloping hillside. The wall extends the entire 120 feet. The northern half of the wall is constructed of hand hewn rail ties while the southern half is made of logs.

The southern half of the complex is a square corral measuring 60' x 60'. The walls on the north, east, and south are made of rail ties while the western wall is the log section of the 120' common wall. The walls are seven feet in height and feature two gates, one on the east and one on the north.

The gate on the north opens into the second corral and the northern wall of the first corral becomes the southern wall of the second corral. The second corral is rectangular measuring 60' x 20'. The walls are all seven feet in height and are made entirely of rail ties. A gate is positioned in the center of the north wall. A shed-type stock shelter made of logs extends for six feet from the top of the 10' common wall, thus a portion of the second corral is covered.

The stock shelter extends beyond the second corral for 40 feet where it functions as an open-faced stable. The western wall of this section is the northern-most section of the 120' common wall. The eastern side is open. The

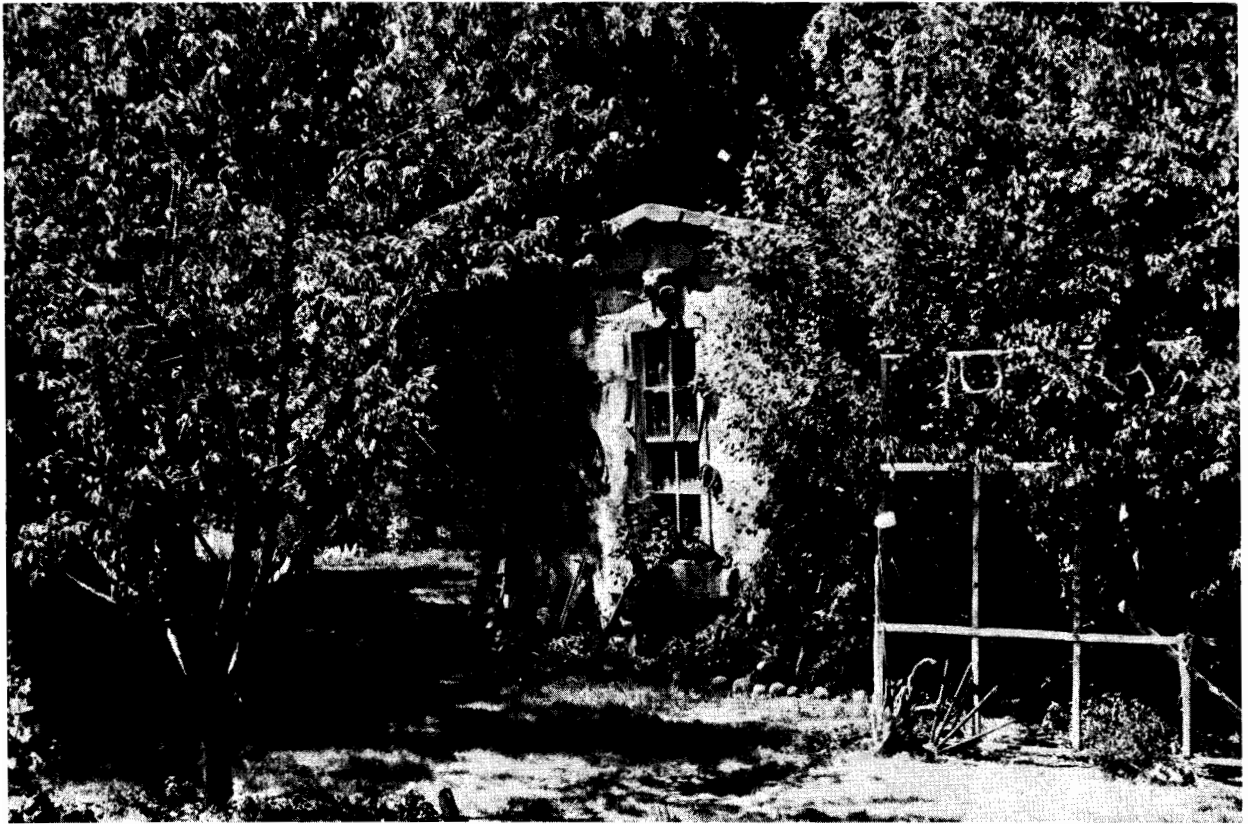


Photo 35. East side of the stone house in 1978. (Photo Credit: Bureau of Land Management).



Photo 36. South side of stone house showing frame addition in 1978. (Photo Credit: Bureau of Land Management).

sheltering roof is made of whipsawed planks and logs. On the south the stable shares a wall with the second corral while on the north a rail tie wall extends the width of the roof.

Two minor additions have been added to the complex in recent years. A tin-topped shed extends eastward from the eastern wall of the first corral and a section of the roof over the open-faced stable immediately north of the second corral has been extended approximately 13 feet toward the east.

Northeast of the corral and stable complex is the log blacksmith shop where Jarvie did "damn fine work." The shop is a single room, one story, rectangular building measuring 15' x 20'. It is constructed of cottonwood logs. The roof is made of split juniper logs and slopes slightly upward from the rear to the front of the building. The original dirt covering has been replaced by green roll roofing. One entry is located on the south side.

East of the blacksmith shop is the fifth Jarvie structure, a small 10' x 9' log building originally used by John Jarvie for storage, now used as a pumphouse. It is made of hewn logs with a roof of whipsawed planks. The original dirt covering has been replaced by green roll roofing. There is one door on the south side of the structure.

In addition to the five major historic buildings on the property, manmade elements comprise several other important objects and sites.

West of the dugout the ruins of the waterwheel can be seen. The bunker in which the wheel sat is still basically intact and miscellaneous pieces of

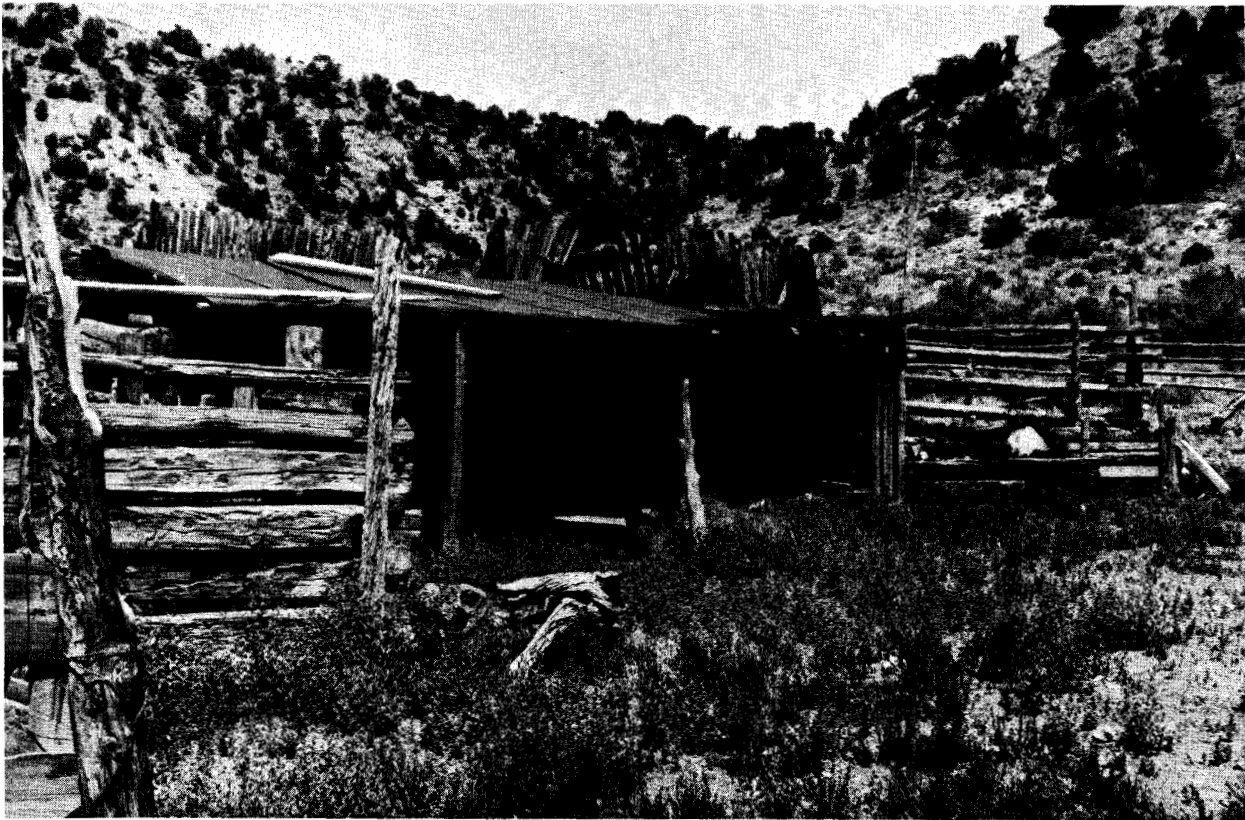


Photo 37. Jarvie corrals in 1978 showing rail tie construction. (Photo Credit: Bureau of Land Management).

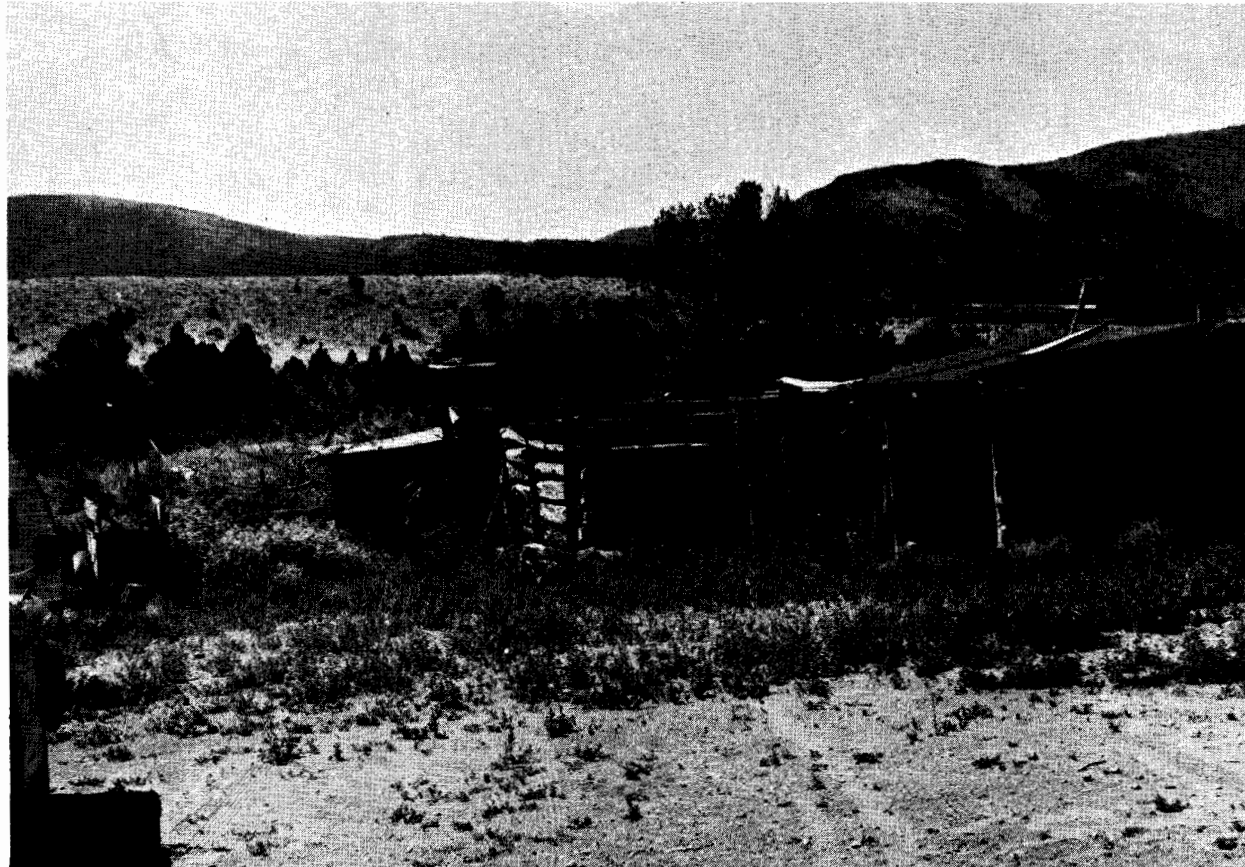


Photo 38. Jarvie corrals in 1978.



Photo 39. Blacksmith shop in 1978. (Photo Credit: Bureau of Land Management).

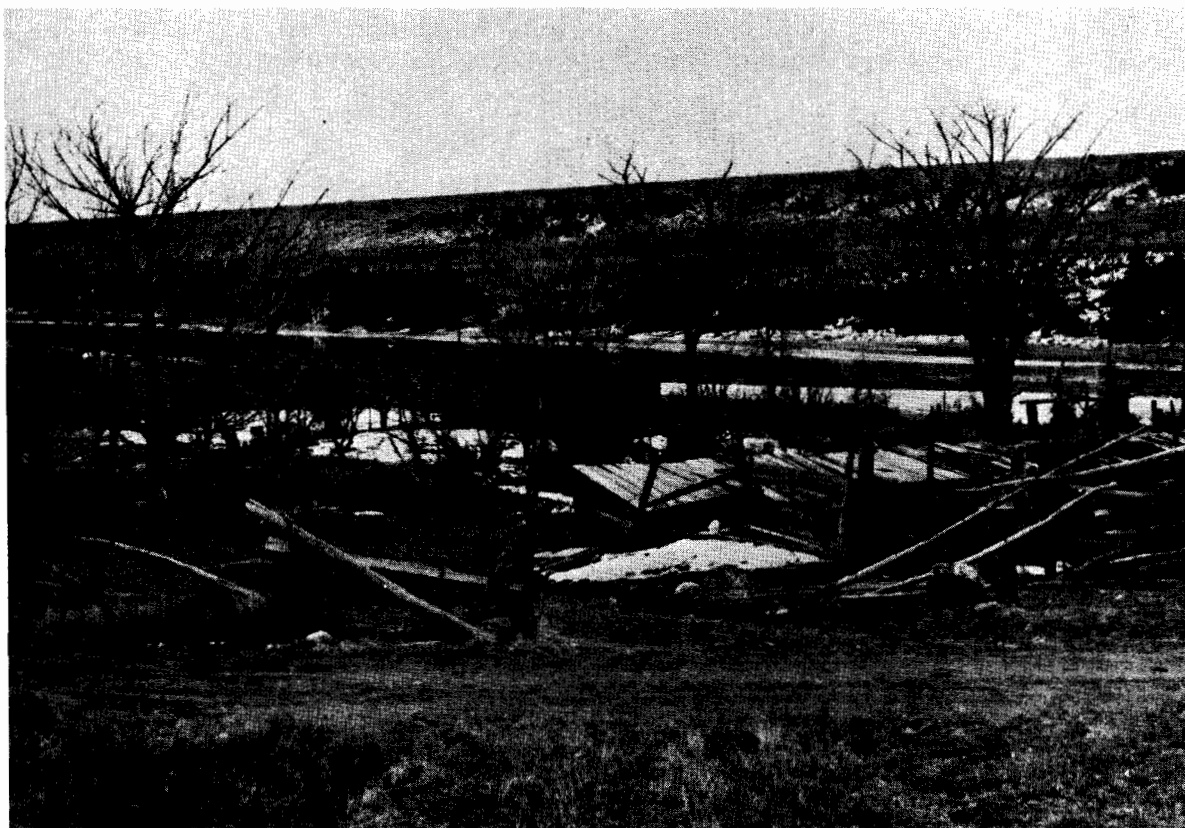


Photo 40. Corral, sheds, stone house, and addition in 1962. (Photo Credit: Utah State Historical Society).

hardware are scattered about, however, the great wheel itself has long since vanished. The wheel originally stood sixteen feet in diameter with paddles (possibly made of fir) approximately four feet wide to which were attached buckets about the size of an eight gallon can. The buckets were about two feet deep and ten inches in diameter. The buckets emptied into a flume that carried the water into a ditch.²²⁰

The ditch itself is a historic element which still passes through the entire length of the Jarvie property. It was constructed in 1902 by Charles Crouse and is consequently known as the Crouse ditch. It originates upstream from Jarvie's where a dike was constructed across a channel of the river to divert the flow. The Crouse ditch extended beyond the Jarvie property to the site of Bridgeport where it divided, crossed the bridge on a flume, and continued down both sides of the river. The portion of the ditch which runs through the Jarvie property is still used today for irrigation purposes.²²¹

A retaining wall constructed of stone and log runs for approximately sixty feet along the southern edge of the property south of the stone house. Built by Jarvie to protect his property from the waters of the river and its winter ice flows, the retaining wall helps to identify the historic course of the Green River.

The property also includes several original fences. They are constructed substantially of cedar posts and Kelly Diamond Point barbed wire. One such fence encloses most of the eastern pasture. Another encircles the orchard area which includes two producing apricot trees planted by John Jarvie.

The crumbling remains of the buckboard or mail coach chassis are a visible reminder of Brown's Park's early post office. Mail coming south from Rock Springs on the mail coach would cross the ferry and continue on to Ashley Valley on horseback. The chassis dates at least to 1887 when the Jarvie post office closed.²²²

The site of the all important Jarvie ferry can easily be identified on the bank of the river east of the stone house. The original ferry pole is still standing and lengths of the ferry cable can be found on both sides of the river.

Four graves are located on the property. One of them predates Jarvie. The others are from the Jarvie period. Many graves in Brown's Park remained unmarked until the 1940s when Ann Bassett (relying on memory) toured the Park with Esther Campbell and erected markers which were donated by a Craig, Colorado, mortuary. Some of the grave sites are disputed locally and are particularly controversial, including at least one on the Jarvie property.

The earliest grave belongs to H.M. Hook. During the summer of 1868 several prospectors, including H.M. Hook and Jesse Ewing, floated down the river from Green River, Wyoming. Three boats left in secret, at night, to avoid attention. The trip was a pleasant one until the boat containing Hook suddenly dropped out of sight, plunging into a foaming whirlpool. The two following boats rowed to shore. Hook's boat surfaced bottom up; Hook's partner clinging to it. Hook, who had managed to climb onto a large boulder in the river decided to swim to shore. He slid into the water and disappeared. His body washed ashore downstream and was buried.

If the accident took place in the Red Creek rapids, which is highly probable, it is very likely that Hook would have been buried on or near what was later to become the John Jarvie property. Many early Brown's Park pioneers recall seeing the grave in their valley. J.S. Hoy said "For years after the place [Hook's grave] was noted as a landmark.' We rode as far as Hook's grave'; 'We saw cattle across the river from Hook's grave'; and the like, people would say to indicate where they had been."²²³

Other reliable accounts, however, place Hook's grave far from Brown's Park in Red Canyon above Flaming Gorge. One of John Wesley Powell's men noted in his journal, "On the 4th of June we passed the wrecks of some boats half-buried in the sand, and on landing, we discovered a grave on a little knoll some distance back from the water, with a pine board stuck up at its head bearing the name of Hook The leader, whose bones lie in these splendid depths of Red Canyon was said to have been the first mayor of Cheyenne."²²⁴

Hook had, indeed, been the first mayor of Cheyenne. The fact that his widow offered \$1,000.00 for identification of the body's location could, in part, explain the number of Hook "graves" in the area!

The second grave belongs to a young man by the name of Robinson. Robinson was one of the Jesse Ewing's victims. In the early days of the 1880s Robinson staked a claim too near to Jesse's property. The results are found in the Hoy Manuscript:

One winter day when Green River was in icy fetters bound,
he and Jesse met on the ice. Just what took place, what

was said will never be known. After Jesse had done his part, he pursued his way homeward passing the cabin of the couple of trappers saying to them: 'If you want to see the handsomest corpse you ever saw go up yonder on the ice and you will see it,' and he passed on to his cabin high on the rock ribbed mountain side as if nothing unusual had occurred. The men found Robinson streatched out full length, dead, stabbed to the heart. Where Ronbinson came from nobody seemed to know. I believe Jesse had some sort of a judicial examination before a justice of the piece, claiming self-defense.²²⁵

Young Robinson was buried on the Jarvie property in 1882. In 1885 a man named Young was drowned at the wagon ford and was also buried on the ranch.

The final grave, ironically, belongs to Jesse Ewing himself. Ewing first came to Brown's Park around 1867. Local legend has it that he'd worked for the Overland stage. He had been in so many fights with Indians and grizzlies that his face was horribly scarred (as was his personality, many claim).

Ewing was a prospector and had a cabin and assay office in the canyon that now bears his name. He became acquainted with Jarvie, being one of his nearest neighbors. "Frank Jenkins found a crate addressed to Jesse Ewing Assay Co. under a ledge at the Jarvie place when he lived there. The box was found up on the hill and it had a set of brand new scales in it."²²⁶

Unable to support his ventures, Ewing would entice unwary partners into investing in his claims. When the money was gone he would chase them off or carve them up (Jarvie once told Jess Taylor that Ewing always carried a knife, never a gun).²²⁷

Ewing, tired of a bachelor's life, persuaded a certain Madam Forrestal (who at

one time had sold bootleg whiskey to the Indians with Jack Bennett) to leave the red light district of Rock Springs and come to live in his cabin in Jesse Ewing Canyon.

Ewing later entered into a partnership with Frank Duncan in 1885, and the trio lived happily for a time in Jesse's cabin. Gradually, however, Madam Forrestal's affections shifted from Ewing to Duncan. Fearing that evil tempered Jesse might be getting suspicious, they began to plot against him.

The day of the killing, Duncan feigned illness remaining at the cabin all day. Late in the evening when Jesse was on his way home from an unusually hard day's work, slowly climbing the steep mountain following the narrow trail worn smooth by his own footsteps -- unsuspecting of danger -- Duncan lay in ambush and shot him dead -- to make sure fired three or four extra bullets into the prostrate body, shot him with his own Winchester.²²⁸

Frank and Madam hurriedly left the area, but as they were leaving, they stopped at John Jarvie's store and told Jarvie that Ewing was sick and was asking for him. Jarvie discovered Jesse's body and with the help of Speck Williams buried it only inches from Ewing's victim Robinson. "It is not recorded that there were any mourners."²²⁹

The second category, non-existing Jarvie structures, comprises those elements which existed during Jarvie's occupancy of the property, but have subsequently been removed. Through oral interviews, old photographs, and early surveys the locations and descriptions of the structures have been ascertained. Although the structures are no longer present physically, the sites which they occupied have been identified and, thus, they become important to the character of the

property.

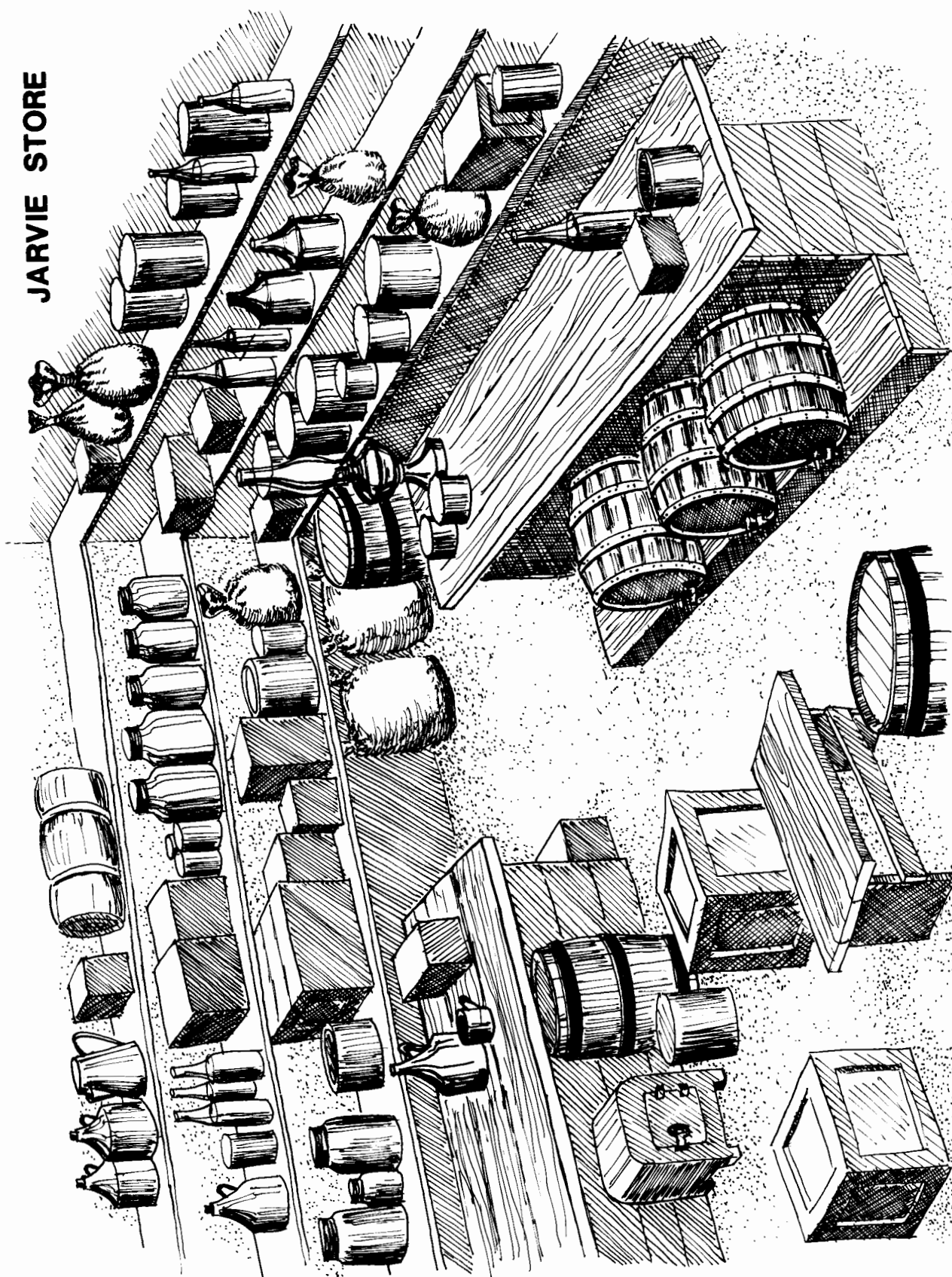
The most important missing structure is the Jarvie store and home complex. The store was a rectangular log building with a dirt roof and a stone basement. The door, on the north side of the building, was two or three feet above ground level, due to the height of the basement, and there were no stairs leading up to it, thus facilitating the unloading of goods from wagons. There was a small window high on the south wall and possibly another small one on the north wall east of the door.²³⁰

Counters ran along the west and south sides of the store with an opening between them in the southwest corner. Behind the counters were floor-to-ceiling shelves 2 1/2 feet wide piled with merchandise: ammunition, guns, groceries, saddles. Three whiskey barrels (hauled from Rock Springs) sat on a raised platform in front of the west counter with spigots ready for dispensing.²³¹ The store safe was kept in plain view in front of the south counter. There were benches to sit on in the open area in front of the counters as well as piles of merchandise, boxes, and cans of dry goods.

The Jarvie house was a log structure connected to the eastern side of the Jarvie store. Immediately east of the store was a room described as a "junk room" or a "breezeway" which was entered through a door in the eastern wall of the store. Since only the store itself sat on the stone foundation, the remainder of the store/house complex was at ground level. A three-step stairway led from the store down into the junk room.

Having no windows, the junk room was dark. It was cluttered with guns, cans,

JARVIE STORE



Sketch based on personal interviews

Figure 3. Interior sketch of the Jarvie store.

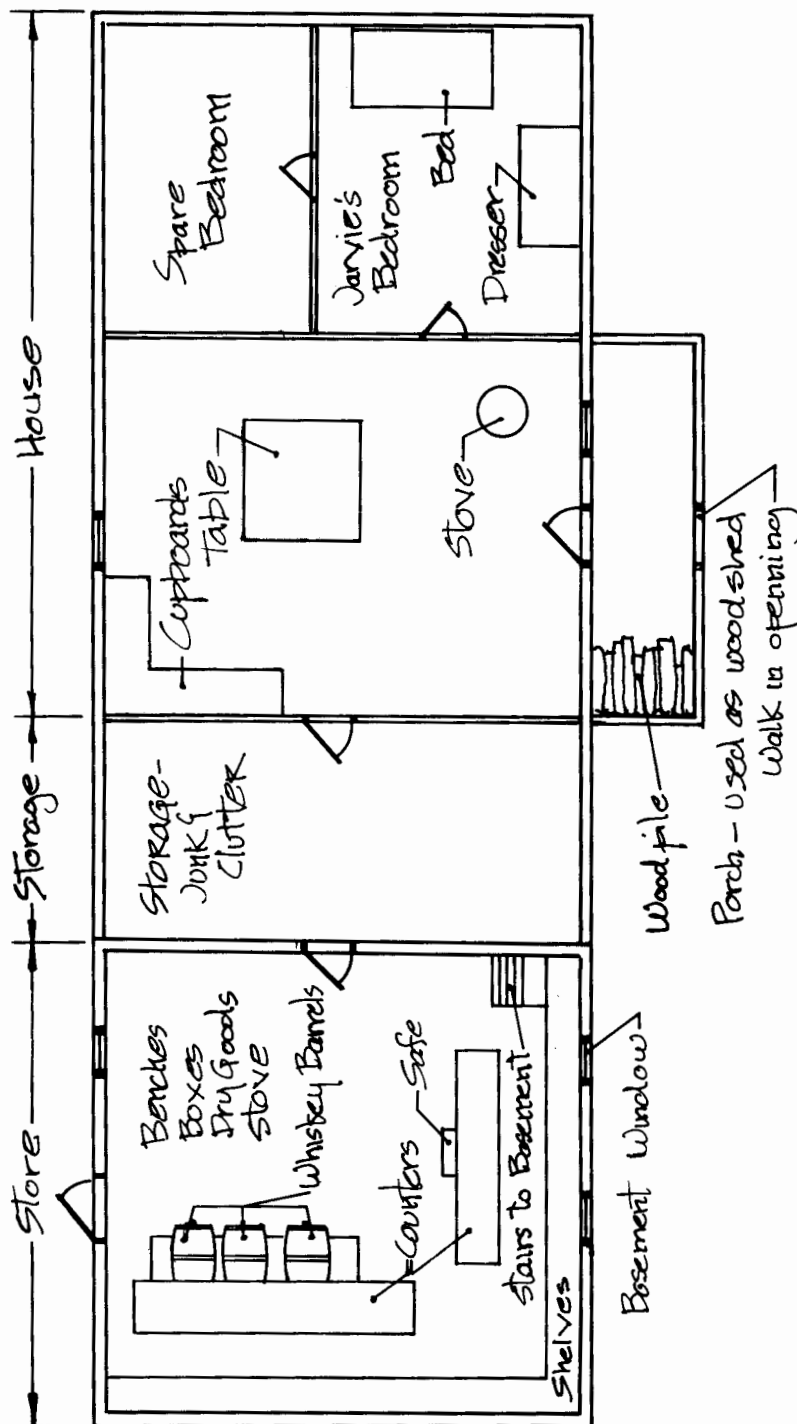
and boxes. Jarvie stored a collection of muzzle-loaders there.

A doorway in the eastern side of the junk room led into the house itself. It was a three-room house with a porch on the south side. Immediately east of the junk room was the kitchen. A door on the south side led to the porch. Windows were located east of the door and in the center of the north wall. Cupboards were located in the northwest corner, a table in the center of the room, and a stove south of the table. The porch (or wood shed) extended south from the kitchen. It was completely enclosed; made of rail ties. Wood was piled against the western wall. There was a doorway on the south side but no door.

Jarvie's bedroom was east of the kitchen. It was entered through a door in the eastern wall of the kitchen. A dresser (which is today in the Jess Taylor home in Rock Springs) sat against the south wall. The bed was placed against the east wall. A trunk containing old guns and a pearl-handled revolver sat at the foot of the bed. A doorway in the northern wall of Jarvie's bedroom led into the second bedroom. It was a simple square room with a window in the northern wall. The Jarvie store and home complex extended to within three or four feet of the stone house.

Following the Jarvie murder young John lived on the property. He tore down the store and the house and built a new five-room house on the same spot. When Charlie Sparks purchased the property in 1924 the structure was moved to the Garrison ranch on Beaver Creek where it was later destroyed by fire.²³²

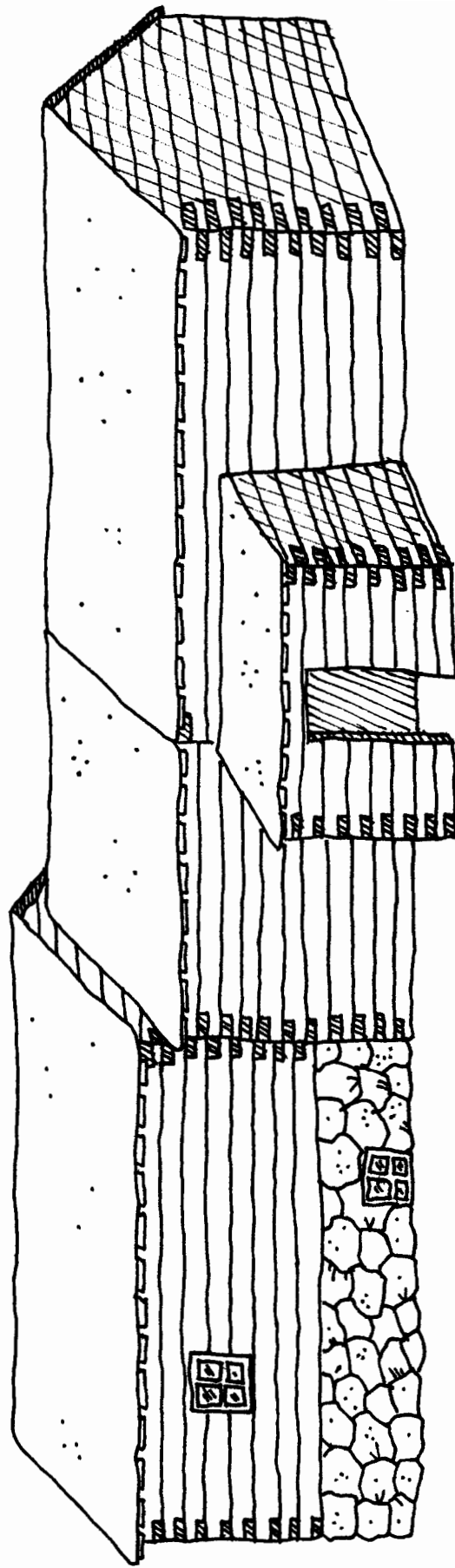
The stone foundation of the store was still visible in 1934.²³³ During the



JARVIE STORE & HOUSE

Conceptual drawing based on personal interviews —not to scale

Figure 4. Floorplan of the Jarvie store and home complex.



JARVIS STORE AND HOME

Sketch based on personal interviews

Figure 5. Sketch of the south side of the Jarvis store and home complex.

winter of that year Frank Jenkins filled in the cellar using a team and scraper. Old kerosene lamps, lamp chimneys, harnesses, and logs which had fallen into the cellar were covered over. As Marie Allen once observed: "If you dig in there, you'll find things."²³⁴

Two other non-existing Jarvie structures are the chicken house and outhouse. The chicken house was a log building with a door facing west and a window south of the door. It stood east of the stone house. The outhouse was located west of the store between the dugout and the Crouse ditch.

An 1898 survey of the Green River meanders indicates other structures on the property. Jarvie had a log storehouse north of the stone house, two log houses in the pasture east of the stone house, and a barn encircled by a corral west of the wagon ford.²³⁵ A foundation remnant north of the log storehouse site indicates the existence of yet another structure.

Surveyor Adolph Jensen also noted that Jarvie had a fenced pasture upstream from the store. A pre-Crouse ditch attempt at irrigation had been undertaken, however, Jensen found the ditch to be "utterly worthless because its head is below high water and above low water and the fall of the ditch is insufficient."²³⁶

A photograph taken by the 'Kolb brothers' expedition in 1911 shows another log building standing in the area immediately east of where the Jarvie chicken house stood. Jess Taylor recalls the structure as being rectangular (longer east to west than north to south), one roomed, and dirt roofed. Jarvie used it as a shop.²³⁷

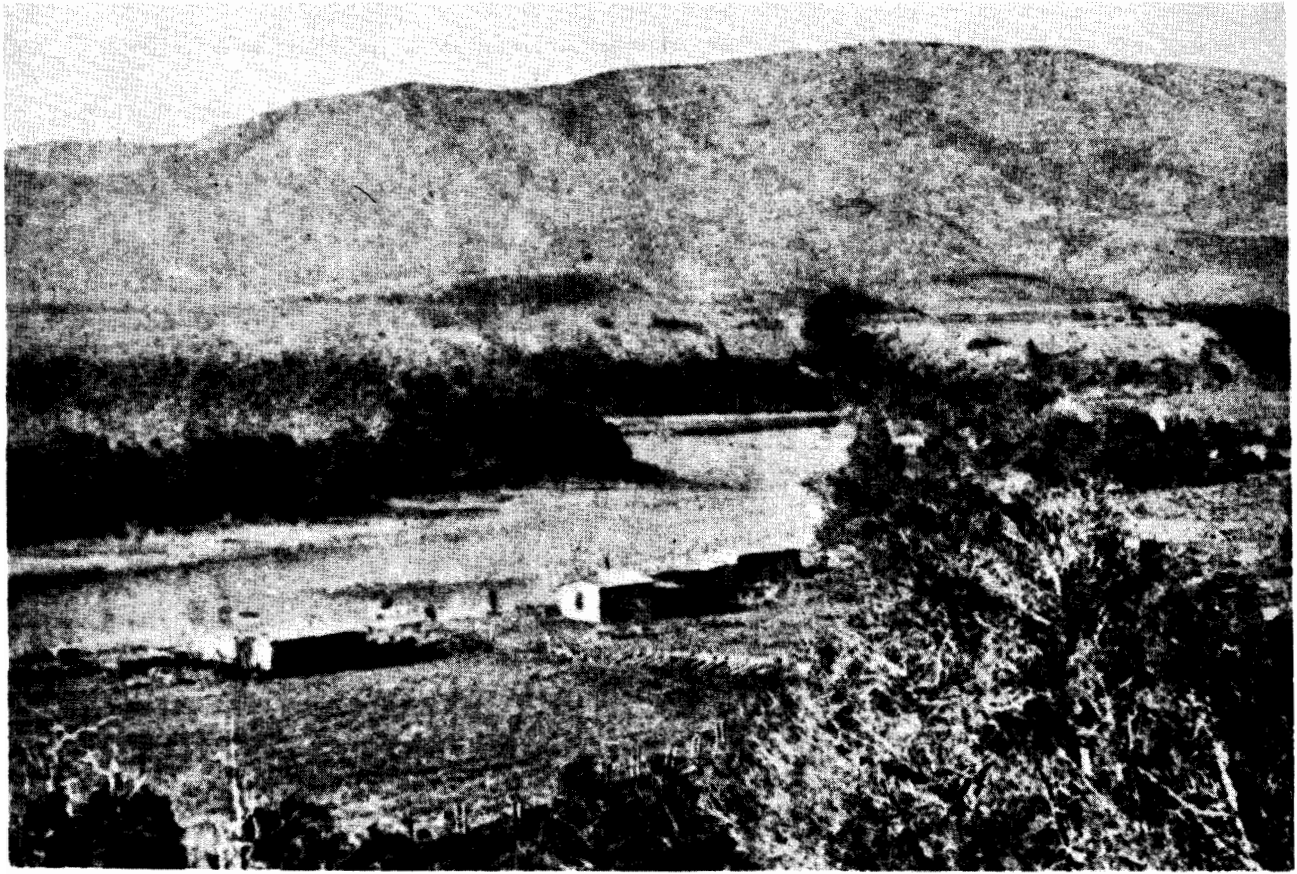


Photo 41. 1911 photo of the Jarvie property taken by the Kolb expedition.
(Photo Credit: Bureau of Land Management).

Roads led to the ferry and the wagon ford from both sides of the river. A traveler approaching from either direction in the 1890s, when all of the buildings were still standing, would surely know that he was nearing a substantial settlement. The Jarvie Ranch, at that time, was, indeed, the Brown's Park hub of commerce and transportation.

The third category, existing post-Jarvie structures and objects, includes features which were added to the property after the Jarvie period and are still in existence today.

The most noticeable addition is a modern mobile home which was moved to the property by the Campbells in the late 1960s. It is a 35 foot, double-wide, three-bedroom home. A 35' x 15' redwood frame addition, divided into two rooms, and a 5' x 18' porch connected to the addition were later added to the north side of the home. The mobile home does not set on a permanent foundation; the addition does.

A metal Butler Building granary stands immediately east of the Jarvie blacksmith shop and a small metal wellhouse stands immediately east of the log storehouse (which is now used as the pumphouse). A log chicken house stands only inches to the west of the log storehouse. It was constructed in the 1930s by Frank Jenkins. There is one door on the south side and a window east of the door.

Several fences (a buck pole fence east of the mobile home, a three-sided fence attached to the west side of the corral complex, and a wire deer fence east of



Photo 42. Chicken house and pump house in 1978. (Photo Credit: Bureau of Land Management).



Photo 43. A portion of the Campbell Rock Garden in 1978. (Photo Credit: Bureau of Land Management).

the buck pole fence), a loading chute attached to the north end of the corral complex, a foot bridge over the Crouse ditch, and an irrigation pump-pipe-ditch system which merges with the old ditch are all modern additions to the property. Several pieces of antique farm machinery have recently been moved to the property and now line a section of the old Crouse ditch.

The final existing post-Jarvie feature is the Campbell Rock Garden. Beginning in 1938, Duward and Esther Campbell collected unique minerals and geological forms as well as Indian artifacts. These have been arranged over a large area (where the Jarvie chicken house once stood) in attractive geometric designs. The rock garden includes many metates and several hundred manos, scrapers, manti boards, hammer stones, and spear points all from Brown's Park and the surrounding area. The garden is one of the site's most popular features.

The last category, non-existing post-Jarvie structures and objects, includes those elements which were built on the property following Jarvie's murder and existed for a time, but no longer remain. They are not historically important; however, their sites have been identified and they do tell us something about the development of the property.

A bunkhouse, granary, and hog pen are classified as the non-existing post-Jarvie features. The bunkhouse was a one-room log building approximately 10' x 12'. It stood between the dugout and the Crouse ditch. The remains of the wind generator and a bunk mark the spot today. The granary was a one-room log building situated to the west of the ferry pole. It had one south-facing door and a north-facing window. The roof sloped from the south up to the

north. The hog pen encircled the granary. Several of the posts remain in place today indicating that the hog pen and the Jarvie pasture fence were connected at one time.²³⁸

The bunkhouse, granary, and hog pen were all built by Sparks or Jenkins since they postdated Jarvie and predated Allen. They were all destroyed by a fire in the 1950s. The fire originated in the bunkhouse where, unfortunately, many of Marie Allen's historical notes and photographs were stored. The fire spread along the river to the pasture where it burned the hog pen and granary. Luckily the central portion of the ranch around the stone house was irrigated and was thus bypassed by the fire as it moved downstream.

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¹⁶Ibid., p. 108.

¹⁷Thomas J. Farnham, Travels in the Great Western Prairies, the Anahuac and Rocky Mountains, and the Oregon Territory (Poughkeepsie, New York, 1841), p. 57. The Peoria Party underwent several divisions as it progressed. The party that left Peoria comprised fifteen men. One man joined the group at Quincy, Illinois and two men joined at Independence, Missouri. At 110 Mile Creek on the Santa Fe Trail, three members joined an eastbound wagon party and returned to the States. At the Arkansas River crossing, three members left the party and headed to New Mexico and one new member was added. At Bent's Fort, the group split. Farnham, Oakley, Blair, and Wood engaged a guide named Kelly, continued up the Arkansas, and headed for Brown's Hole. At Brown's Hole, Oakley and Wood decided to return to the East. Farnham, Smith, and Blair continued on to Oregon. The eight members who left the group at Bent's Fort moved north to Fort St. Vrain where three members left the group. The remaining five, led by Shortess, moved on to Brown's Hole in the fall. Shortess moved on to Ft. Hall in October and eventually arrived in Oregon in April. Cook, Holman, Fletcher, and Kilburn spent most of the winter in Brown's Hole and continued on to Oregon in the spring of 1840. For biographies and journals of Obadiah Oakley, Sidney Smith, Robert Shortess, Joseph Holman, Amos Cook, and Francis Fletcher, see Hafen and Hafen, To the Rockies and Oregon 1839-1842.

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⁴²Darrah, p. 166.

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53William Loren Katz, The Black West (Garden City, New York, 1971), pp. 158-160; and Burroughs, pp. 23-30.

54Ibid., pp. 126-127.

55Dick Dunham and Vivian Dunham, Flaming Gorge Country (Denver, 1977), p. 211.

56Information on the Parsons family can be found in a letter from Queen Steele of Pinedale, Wyoming, the granddaughter of John Parsons, to Marie Taylor Allen, 16 February 1971, in possession of William Allen, Brown's Park, Utah.

57For a highly dramatized account of Billy Buck Tittsworth's early adventures in and around Brown's Park see W.G. Tittsworth, Outskirt Episodes (Des Moines, Iowa, 1927).

⁵⁸Hoy, p. 103.

⁵⁹Daughters of the Utah Pioneers of Uintah County, Utah, Builders of Uintah: A Centennial History of Uintah County 1871 to 1947 (Springville, Utah, 1947), p. 41.

⁶⁰Uintah Papoose (Vernal, Utah), 4 February 1891.

⁶¹For an autobiographical account of Ann Bassett's life, see Ann Bassett Willis, " 'Queen Ann' of Brown's Park", Colorado Magazine 29 (April 1952), pp. 81-98; (July 1951), pp. 218-235; (October 1952), pp. 284-298; 30 (January 1953), pp. 58-76.

⁶²Dunham and Dunahm, pp. 178-179.

⁶³Burroughs, p. 56.

⁶⁴Hoy, p. 216.

⁶⁵Burroughs, p. 67.

⁶⁶Charles Kelly, The Outlaw Trail (New York, 1959), p. 84.

⁶⁷Ann Zwinger, Run, River, Run: A Naturalist's Journey Down One of the Great Rivers of the West (New York, 1975), p. 141.

⁶⁸Ann Bassett Willis, undated notes written to Esther Campbell commenting on her unpublished history of Brown's Park.

⁶⁹Larry Pointer, In Search of Butch Cassidy (Norman, Oklahoma, 1977), p. 52.

⁷⁰Pearl Baker, The Wild Bunch at Robbers Roost (New York, 1971), p. 188.

⁷¹Matt Warner, The Last of the Bandit Riders (Cadwell, Idaho, 1940), p. 136.

⁷²Dunham and Dunham, p. 309. Local legend has it that the much married Bassett sister was something of a female Bluebeard. Minnie Crouse Rasmussen presented George Stephens with a small strychnine bottle which was supposedly used to do in one of Josie's husbands. Stephens now has the bottle on display in his private museum in Green River, Wyoming. Park Rangers at Dinosaur National Monument keep the legend alive by repeating the tales to tourists who visit Josie's cabin in the Monument. Descendents of Josie Bassett, however, find it difficult to picture the gentle white haired lady they knew as the husband killer of Brown's Park folklore.

⁷³Lula Parker Betenson, Butch Cassidy, My Brother (Provo, Utah, 1975), p. 80.

⁷⁴Burroughs, p. 207.

⁷⁵Dunham and Dunham, p. 271. For a detailed account of the Tom Horn

killings, see Jay Monaghan, The Legend of Tom Horn: Last of the Bad Men (Indianapolis, 1946), pp. 169-190.

⁷⁶Monaghan, p. 169.

⁷⁷One of Ann's unique methods of attacking the Two Bar was to marry Hi Bernard, foreman of the ranch! The mismatched lovers' divorce case was in court at the same time as Ann's rustling trial. The Moffat County (Colorado) Courier, 28 August 1913 reports: "Hi charges Anne with desertion. She admits to being away for over a year, but claims it was necessary."

⁷⁸Moffat County (Colorado) Courier, 14 August 1913.

⁷⁹Burroughs, p. 316.

⁸⁰Moffat County (Colorado) Courier, 21 August 1913.

⁸¹Burroughs, p. 316.

⁸²Interview with Carol Lynn Jarvie Terry by William L. Tennent, Vernal, Utah, 4 August 1978.

⁸³United States, Census Office, Ninth Census of the United States, Wyoming Territory, Sweetwater County, Rock Springs, U.P.R.R. Post Office.

⁸⁴Record of Mortgages Sweetwater County Wyoming Territory, Book A, pp. 262-263, 332-334, County Recorder, Sweetwater County Courthouse, Green River, Wyoming; Record of Licenses Issued in Sweetwater County Wyoming Territory, 1871-1880, County Recorder, Sweetwater County Courthouse, Green River, Wyoming; Assessment Roll of Sweetwater County Wyoming Territory, 1877, 1879, 1880, County Recorder, Sweetwater County Courthouse, Green River, Wyoming; and Tax Roll of Sweetwater County Wyoming Territory, 1879-1880, County Recorder, Sweetwater County Courthouse, Green River, Wyoming.

⁸⁵Journal District Court Sweetwater County, Book 1, pp. 305-306, County Clerk, Sweetwater County Courthouse, Green River, Wyoming.

⁸⁶Interview with Minnie Crouse Rasmussen by William L. Tennent, Prescott, Arizona, 29 August 1978, Recording at Bureau of Land Management District Office, Vernal, Utah; Marriage Record, Book A, p. 47, County Recorder, Sweetwater County Courthouse, Green River, Wyoming; and Declaration of Intention District Court Sweetwater County, Book 1, p. 160, County Clerk, Sweetwater County Courthouse, Green River, Wyoming.

⁸⁷Rasmussen; Anri Bassett, Untitled Manuscript, In possession of Mrs. Evelyn Peavy Semotan, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

⁸⁸Although Jarvie probably visited Brown's Park prior to his move, Sweetwater County tax rolls and business license records indicate that Rock Springs remained his legal residence at least through May of 1880. He does not appear in the Summit County, Utah tax assessment rolls for 1879 (Brown's Park was in Summit County until 1880).

⁸⁹Interview with Josie Bassett Morris by Esther Campbell, Brown's Park,

Utah, Notes at Bureau of Land Management District Office, Vernal, Utah.

⁹⁰Rasmussen.

⁹¹Interview with Josie Bassett Morris by Marian MacLeod, Brown's Park, Colorado, 1960, Notes at Gates of Lodore Ranger Station, Dinosaur National Monument, Colorado.

⁹²Interview with Jess Taylor by William L. Tennent, Rock Springs, Wyoming, 16 August 1979, Notes at Bureau of Land Management District Office, Vernal, Utah.

⁹³Rasmussen.

⁹⁴Vernal (Utah) Express, 14 July 1892.

⁹⁵Vernal (Utah) Express, 31 August 1893.

⁹⁶Rock Springs (Wyoming) Miner, 24 February 1892.

⁹⁷Jay Monaghan, "Moffat County CWA Papers," Pamphlet 365, p. 128, State Historical Society of Colorado, Denver, Colorado.

⁹⁸John Rolfe Burroughs, Where the Old West Stayed Young (New York, 1962), pp. 129-130.

⁹⁹Monaghan, p. 122.

¹⁰⁰Esther Campbell Notes, Gates of Lodore Ranger Station, Dinosaur National Monument, Colorado.

¹⁰¹Jesse S. Hoy, "The J.S. Hoy Manuscript," p. 103, Colorado State University Library, Ft. Collins, Colorado; Camp Buena Vista, Ashley Valley's First Post Office (Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1974), p. 10; Burroughs, p. 44; Dick and Vivian Dunham, Flaming Gorge Country (Denver, 1977), p. 211.

¹⁰²United States, Civil Service Commission, Official Register of the United States 1879, Vol. II, P. 351; United States, Civil Service Commission, Official Register of the United States 1881, Vol. II, p. 580; United States, Civil Service Commission, Official Register of the United States 1883, Vol. II, p. 612; United States, Civil Service Commission, Official Register of the United States 1885, Vol. II, p. 656; Interview with John Van Der Eedt, National Archives and Record Service, Washington D.C., February 28, 1980.

¹⁰³Dunham and Dunham, p. 211.

¹⁰⁴Rasmussen. In 1887, T.H. Mitchell was the Vernal, Utah postmaster, however, the postmaster at the adjacent Old Ashley Town post office (which had served Vernal until 1886) was George W. Crouch--undoubtedly the "Kraus" recalled by Mrs. Rasmussen.

¹⁰⁵Dunham and Dunham, p. 183.

106Vernal (Utah) Express, 21 April 1898.

107Taylor Interview.

108Jess Taylor Notes, Gates of Lodore Ranger Station, Dinosaur National Monument, Colorado.

109John Jarvie to John Jarvie Jr., 28 May 1902, Copy at Bureau of Land Management District Office, Vernal, Utah; John Jarvie to Thomas Jarvie, 27 October 1903, Copy at Bureau of Land Management District Office, Vernal, Utah.

110The Uintah County Commissioners had granted Crouse a twenty-five year franchise to operate the toll bridge (Record B County Commissioners Uintah County Utah, p. 119, County Recorder, Uintah County Courthouse, Vernal, Utah). Crouse had originally intended to call his community Central Park (Vernal (Utah) Express, 14 December 1901) but the name Bridgeport seemed more appropriate and the name is still found on Utah maps today. In 1907, Crouse sold his Bridgeport property including "that certain ditch and canal taken out of the Green River about one mile west of John Jarvie's place, said canal being about four and one half miles long, and being used for the purpose of irrigating...and all the water rights pertaining thereto..." to the First National Bank of Rock Springs for the sum of \$2,000.00 (Transcript of Records Uintah County to Daggett County, pp. 54-55, County Recorder, Daggett County Courthouse, Manila, Utah).

111Dunham and Dunham, p. 184.

112Ibid.

113Ibid., p. 188, 187, 219; Taylor Interview.

114For details on Jarvie's mining ventures see: Miscellaneous Record, Book A, p. 450, County Recorder, Moffat County Courthouse, Craig, Colorado; Miscellaneous Record, Book B, pp. 446, 448, County Recorder, Moffat County Courthouse, Craig, Colorado; Miscellaneous Record, Book C, pp. 301, 307, 340-342, 350, 361, County Recorder, Moffat County Courthouse, Craig, Colorado; Miscellaneous Record, Book K, p. 155-156, County Recorder, Moffat County Courthouse, Craig, Colorado; Placer Location Certificates, Book H, pp. 57, 63, 64-65, 114, County Recorder, Moffat County Courthouse, Craig, Colorado; and Placer Location Certificates, Book J, p. 586, County Recorder, Moffat County Courthouse, Craig, Colorado.

115John Jarvie to Thomas Jarvie.

116John Jarvie to John Jarvie Jr.

117Rasmussen.

118Dunham and Dunham, p. 298.

119Tax Assessor's Roll Uintah County Utah Territory, 1888, Utah State Archives, Salt Lake City, Utah; Assessment Roll for Uintah County Utah Territory, 1890, Utah State Archives, Salt Lake City, Utah; and Probate Record No. 155, District Court of the Fourth Judicial District, County Clerk, Uintah

County Courthouse, Vernal, Utah.

¹²⁰Ibid.; Assessment Roll 1897, p. 33, County Recorder, Routt County Courthouse, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

¹²¹Vernal (Utah) Express, 15 December 1892, 22 December 1892, 29 December 1892, 5 January 1893, 12 January 1893.

¹²²Campbell Notes.

¹²³Interview with Crawford MacKnight by William L. Tennent, Jensen, Utah, 3 July 1979, Notes at Bureau of Land Management District Office, Vernal, Utah.

¹²⁴Record B County Commissioners Uintah County Utah, pp. 263, 274, 391, County Recorder, Uintah County Courthouse, Vernal, Utah; Record C County Commissioners Uintah County Utah, pp. 2, 207, County Recorder, Uintah County Courthouse, Vernal, Utah.

¹²⁵Water Certificate Uintah County, Book 1, pp. 95, 101, County Recorder, Uintah County Courthouse, Vernal, Utah; Record B County Commissioners Uintah County, p. 222; Transcript of Records Uintah County to Daggett County, pp. 16, 21, 113; Abstract Daggett County, Book 8, pp. 97-98, County Recorder, Daggett County Courthouse, Manila, Utah; Abstract Daggett County, Book 1, p. 113, County Recorder, Daggett County Courthouse, Manila, Utah; Miscellaneous Record, Book K, pp. 508-510, County Recorder, Moffat County Courthouse, Craig, Colorado; Miscellaneous Record, Book A, p. 563, County Recorder, Moffat County Courthouse, Craig, Colorado; Deed Records, Book 68, p. 48, County Recorder, Routt County Courthouse, Steamboat Springs, Colorado; Deed Record Book F, p. 130, County Recorder, Routt County Courthouse, Steamboat Springs, Colorado; Deed Records, Book 27, p. 285, County Recorder, Routt County Courthouse, Steamboat Springs, Colorado; Assessment Roll 1897, p. 33, County Recorder, Routt County Courthouse, Steamboat Springs, Colorado; Record of Tax Sales 1888-1896, pp. 6, 15; County Recorder, Routt County Courthouse, Steamboat Springs, Colorado; Tax Sale Record, Routt County Courthouse, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

¹²⁶Mortgage Record Uintah County, Book 1, pp. 9-10, 41-44, 265, County Recorder, Uintah County Courthouse, Vernal, Utah; Deed Record Uintah County, Book 16, pp. 173-174, 566, County Recorder, Uintah County Courthouse, Vernal, Utah; Deed Record Uintah County, Book 17, p. 512, County Recorder, Uintah County Courthouse, Vernal, Utah; Certificate of Discharge, Book 1, p. 24, County Recorder, Uintah County Courthouse, Vernal, Utah.

¹²⁷Assessment Roll, 1897, County Recorder, Routt County Courthouse, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

¹²⁸Rasmussen.

¹²⁹Ibid.

¹³⁰Ibid.

¹³¹MacKnight.

132Bassett.

133Interview with Ralph Chew by William L. Tennent, Vernal, Utah, 3 July 1979.

134Taylor Interview; MacKnight.

135Rasmussen.

136Ibid.

137Vernal (Utah) Express, 1 December 1892.

138Avvon Chew Hughe, The Chew Bunch in Brown's Park (San Francisco, 1970), pp. 74-76.

139Vernal (Utah) Express, 30 July 1909.

140Matt Warner, The Last of the Bandit Riders (Caldwell, Idaho, 1940), p. 58.

141Ibid.; p. 58-59.

142Ann Bassett Willis to Esther Campbell, 23 April 1950, Copy at Bureau of Land Management District Office, Vernal, Utah.

143Ann Bassett Willis to Esther Campbell, Undated, Copy at Bureau of Land Management District Office, Vernal, Utah.

144Ibid.

145Ann Bassett Willis to Esther Campbell, 3 May 1953, Copy at Bureau of Land Management District Office, Vernal, Utah; Interview with Esther Campbell by William L. Tennent, Brown's Park, Utah, 25 July 1978, Recording at Bureau of Land Management District Office, Vernal, Utah.

On November 14, 1953, the Brown's Park Club re-enacted the Outlaws' Thanksgiving Dinner with Brown's Park ladies taking the various roles. Esther Campbell, recent owner of the Jarvie property, corresponded with her friend Ann Bassett Willis in order to get all of the necessary details. Mrs. Campbell played the part of Butch Cassidy and Ann Ducey, wearing a beard specially made from an old photograph by the Denver Costume House, was John Jarvie.

The only person attending the mock dinner who had been at the original was Josie Bassett Morris, by that time an elderly woman. She was the guest of honor.

146The joke played on Johnson by Strang is a matter of minor debate among Brown's Park historians. For differing opinions, see Vernal (Utah) Express, 24 February 1898; Rock Springs (Wyoming) Miner, 24 February 1898; and Burroughs, p. 160.

147Rock Springs (Wyoming) Miner, 24 February 1898.

¹⁴⁸Strang either died twenty minutes after the shooting as reported by the Steamboat (Colorado) Pilot, 9 March 1898, within an hour of the shooting (Burroughs, p. 160), or lingered on in agony for nineteen hours as claimed by the Rock Springs (Wyoming) Miner, 24 February 1898.

¹⁴⁹See Deseret Evening News (Salt Lake City, Utah), 9 October 1897 for an account of the Lant and Tracy jailbreak

¹⁵⁰Grand Junction (Colorado) Morning Sun, 9 May 1957.

¹⁵¹Burroughs, p. 164.

¹⁵²Craig (Colorado) Courier, 12 March 1898.

¹⁵³Campbell Interview.

¹⁵⁴Steamboat (Colorado) Pilot, 16 March 1898.

¹⁵⁵Campbell Interview.

¹⁵⁶Burroughs, p. 165. Ann Bassett and her husband Frank Willis visited the old Bassett ranch in Brown's Park during the summer of 1949. At that time, they gave the hanging post where Bennett was lynched to Esther and Duward Campbell "because anyone there not knowing what it was would just use it for branding fire, probably" (Campbell Interview). Ironically, when the Campbells moved to the Jarvie property, they brought the hanging post with them and it is currently on display inside the old stone house Bennett built.

¹⁵⁷Rock Springs (Wyoming) Miner, 31 March 1898.

¹⁵⁸Rock Springs (Wyoming) Miner, 10 March 1898.

¹⁵⁹Rock Springs (Wyoming) Miner, 3 March 1898.

¹⁶⁰Rock Springs (Wyoming) Miner, 10 March 1898.

¹⁶¹Steamboat (Colorado) Pilot, 23 March 1898.

¹⁶²Vernal (Utah) Express, 17 March 1898. In the Denver News 11 March 1898, Hoy offered the following solution to the outlaw problem: "A reward of \$1,000 apiece, dead or alive, offered by the authorities of the three states, Colorado, Wyoming and Utah and paid by the State where the capture is made, will do the work. One or two men on the trail of a criminal will succeed where 100 men will be sure to fail. They must be hunted like wild animals. Once on their trail stay on it, camp on it, until the scoundrels are run down, and there are men who will do it, men just as brave, determined and cunning as the outlaws themselves. Knowing they will be paid for their work will be inducement enough for them to devote their whole time to the business.

¹⁶³Steamboat (Colorado) Pilot, 30 March 1898.

¹⁶⁴Dunham and Dunham, p. 265. See Carl W. Brieahan, Outlaws of the Old West (New York, 1975), Chapter 8, for a detailed account of Tracy's activities

in the Pacific Northwest.

165John Jarvie to Thomas Jarvie.

166John Jarvie to Thomas Jarvie.

167Ibid.

168John Jarvie to John Jarvie Jr.

169John Jarvie to Thomas Jarvie.

170John Jarvie to John Jarvie Jr.

171Campbell Interview.

172Morris/MacLeod Interview.

173Vernal (Utah) Express, 16 July 1909.

174Rock Springs (Wyoming) Rocket, 9 July 1909.

175Yampa (Colorado) Leader, 16 July 1909.

176Charles Kelly, The Outlaw Trail (New York, 1959), p. 324.

177Campbell Interview.

178Campbell Notes.

179Vernal (Utah) Express, 16 July 1909.

180Morris/MacLeod Interview.

181Vernal (Utah) Express, 10 September 1909.

182Rasmussen.

183Ibid.

184Vernal (Utah) Express, 23 July 1909.

185Rasmussen; Taylor Interview.

186Morris/MacLeod Interview.

187Vernal (Utah) Express, 16 July 1909.

188Kelly, p. 324.

189Morris/Campbell Interview.

190Vernal (Utah) Express, 16 July 1909.

¹⁹¹Josie Bassett Morris told Marian MacLeod (Morris/MacLeod Interview) that the horse was found dead; however, the Vernal (Utah) Express, 16 July 1909, reported that the horse had merely collapsed from exhaustion and was abandoned.

¹⁹²Morris/MacLeod Interview.

¹⁹³Vernal (Utah) Express, 16 July 1909.

¹⁹⁴Stories vary as to who actually was the first to discover the crime. The Rock Springs (Wyoming) Rocket, 9 July 1909, claims that it was John Jarvie Jr. Jess Taylor (Taylor Interview) and the Vernal (Utah) Express, 16 July 1909, agree that it was Jimmy Jarvie. Josie Bassett Morris told Esther Campbell (Morris/Campbell Interview) that Johnny Law was the one, but her son, Crawford MacKnight (MacKnight Interview), believes that it was Harold King.

¹⁹⁵Vernal (Utah) Express, 23 July 1909.

¹⁹⁶Morris/MacLeod Interview.

¹⁹⁷Vernal (Utah) Express, 23 July 1909.

¹⁹⁸Ibid.

¹⁹⁹Rasmussen.

²⁰⁰Vernal (Utah) Express, 9 July 1909.

²⁰¹Vernal (Utah) Express, 16 July 1909; Morris/Campbell Interview. The Craig (Colorado) Courier, 15 July 1909 reported that the killers had deliberately left a campfire and human looking decoys to sidetrack the posse.

²⁰²Vernal (Utah) Express, 20 August 1909.

²⁰³Rock Springs (Wyoming) Rocket, 9 July 1909.

²⁰⁴Vernal (Utah) Express, 23 July 1909.

²⁰⁵Yampa (Colorado) Leader, 23 July 1909.

²⁰⁶Green River (Wyoming) Star, 23 July 1909.

²⁰⁷Rock Springs (Wyoming) Rocket, 16 July 1909.

²⁰⁸MacKnight.

²⁰⁹Campbell Interview.

²¹⁰Morris/Campbell Interview.

²¹¹Steamboat (Colorado) Pilot, 11 August 1909.

²¹²Vernal (Utah) Express, 23 July 1909.

213Steamboat (Colorado) Pilot, 21 July 1909.

214Campbell Interview.

215Rasmussen Interview.

216The story of Jimmy Jarvie's death is universally accepted by the people of Brown's Park. It has been handed down by his brothers and people who knew him; however, the exact date and place of the incident remain uncertain.

Jimmy followed the killers for more than a year. His brothers would send him money to finance his search (Carol Lynn Jarvie Terry to William L. Tennent, 2 April 1979, In Author's Collection) and he would return to Brown's Park to work periodically (Interview with Archie Lamb by William L. Tennent, Manila, Utah, 26 June 1979, Notes at Bureau of Land Management District Office, Vernal, Utah). On July 20, 1909, Jimmy was declared an heir at law to his father's estate (Probate Record No. 155). On May 6, 1910, he and his brothers appeared before Routt County Justice of the Peace, J.S. Hoy, and sold a piece of property that had belonged to their father to an E.H. Zimmerman (Deed Records, Book 68, p. 48, County Recorder, Routt County Courthouse, Steamboat Springs, Colorado).

Bannock County, Idaho (Pocatello) and Bear Lake County, Idaho (Montpelier) have no records of his death prior to 1911. The state of Idaho has no record of his death since July 1911. Thus, if Jimmy died in Idaho, as has been suggested, it would have to have been between May 6, 1910 and July 1911 in a county other than Bannock or Bear Lake. At least one person (Lamb) claims that the killing took place as far east as St. Louis, Missouri.

217Interview with George Stephens by William L. Tennent, Green River, Wyoming, 14 August 1978.

218Vernal (Utah) Express, 30 July 1909.

219Abstract: Daggett County, Section 23, Township 2N, Range 24E, County Recorder, Daggett County Courthouse, Manila, Utah.

220Interview with William E. Allen by William L. Tennent, Brown's Park, Utah, 8 August 1979, Notes at Bureau of Land Management District Office, Vernal, Utah.

221Transcript of Records Utah County to Daggett County, Notice of Water Appropriation, pp. 26, 28, County Recorder, Daggett County Courthouse, Manila, Utah.

222William Allen.

223Jesse S. Hoy, "The J.S. Hoy Manuscript," p. 102, Colorado State University Library, Ft. Collins, Colorado.

224Frederick S. Dellenbaugh, The Romance of the Colorado River (New York, 1902), p. 249.

225Hoy, p. 187.

226Interview with Wright Dickenson by Glade Ross, Brown's Park, Colorado, June 1975, Notes at Gates of Lodore Range Station, Dinosaur National Monument, Colorado.

227Interview with Jess Taylor by William L. Tennent, Rock Springs, Wyoming, 16 August 1979, Notes at Bureau of Land Management District Office, Vernal, Utah.

228Hoy, p. 189.

229Charles Kelly, The Outlaw Trail (New York, 1959), p. 79.

230Taylor; Interview with Minnie Crouse Rasmussen by William L. Tennent, Prescott, Arizona, 29 August 1978, Recording at Bureau of Land Management District Office, Vernal, Utah. Except for minor details both descriptions of the structures agree.

231Rasmussen; Interview with Crawford MacKnight by William L. Tennent, Jensen, Utah, 3 July 1979, Notes at Bureau of Land Management District Office, Vernal, Utah. Both Minnie Rasmussen and Crawford MacKnight (son of Josie Bassett and Jim MacKnight) recall that the Jarvie whiskey was not always kept upstairs, but was sometimes stored and dispensed from the cellar.

232Interview with Marie Taylor Allen by Glade Ross, Brown's Park, Utah, 11 January 1973, Recording at Gates of Lodore Ranger Station, Dinosaur National Monument, Colorado.

233Jay Monaghan, "Moffat County CWA Papers," Pamphlet 365, p. 128, State Historical Society of Colorado, Denver, Colorado.

234Marie Allen.

235Survey Field Notes, Book A-254, pp. 351-352, Bureau of Land Management State Office, Salt Lake City, Utah.

236Ibid., p. 363.

237Taylor.

238William E. Allen used the granary when he lived on the property. He believes it was built by Frank Jenkins.

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